

Jordan Times

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Sharaa positive on Egypt

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa Saturday praised "positive developments by the Egyptian leadership" and said Damascus would welcome any effort by Cairo to promote Arab solidarity. "I can say that there are positive developments taken by the Egyptian leadership which are matched with full understanding by the Syrian leadership," he told reporters. "Certainly we welcome any positive step taken by Egypt to promote Arab solidarity and abide by the Arab League Charter." Syrian President Hafez Al Assad last month approved Egypt's return to the membership of an Arab agricultural organisation. For the first time in years, the Syrian media Friday front-paged a statement by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak condemning Israel for its stand on the Taba dispute. Asked about reports that relations would be restored soon, Sharaa said: "There is nothing new to this issue. When any developments occur we will say that in the media." He was speaking at Damascus airport shortly before the departure of Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who heads an Arab League committee appointed to try to end Lebanon's constitutional crisis.

Assad meets Sheikh Sabah

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Saturday discussed efforts to prevent permanent partition of Lebanon with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, diplomats said. The Kuwaiti minister, who was in Damascus, Assad said, said the foreign minister was carrying a letter for Assad about the Lebanon situation from Kuwait's leader Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah. Sheikh Sabah said in a statement issued Saturday by Syrian media: "I met to explain to the president the Syrian stance on the Lebanon situation and to discuss the Lebanese situation and to discuss the Lebanese situation and to discuss the Lebanese situation." Assad heads a 15-member Arab League committee that last September with rival Lebanese leaders in Tripoli earlier this week aimed at avoiding Lebanon's division into separate entities and getting a new president elected. The talks failed to reach a compromise solution, but are due to resume in Kuwait. Sabah, a spokesman for Assad, Jibril Kourieh, said the Syrian president issued political reforms in Lebanon "and continue among the Lebanese situation." Assad ready to meet Assad, page 2.

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Jordan receives \$59.5m Saudi aid

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has received an aid payment of \$59.5 million from Saudi Arabia, Finance Minister Hanna Odeh announced Saturday. Odeh was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the money was the sixth instalment due from Riyadh in 1988 under the 1978 Baghdad Arab summit agreements. Odeh said the payment "reflects the Saudi government's endeavour to aid its sister Arab states." Saudi Arabia was the only one of seven Arab donors to pay fully its share of the \$1.25 billion Jordan was to get each year under the Baghdad summit accord.



Sudanese defence minister ends visit

SUDAN'S Defence Minister Abdul Majed Hamed Khaili left Amman Saturday at the end of a several-day visit to Jordan during which he met with officials and toured military positions. He was seen off by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Zubair Ajlouni and Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleh.

2 Palestinians killed, 35 wounded

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot dead a 15-year-old boy Saturday in a schoolyard protest, sparking wider demonstrations in which hospital officials said a second teenager was killed. The officials reported 35 people were also wounded in the protests, including a Swiss Red Cross worker who said an Israeli soldier had deliberately shot him twice in the leg. Witnesses quoted by Reuters said the incident in Khan Younis, home to 34,000 Palestinians, began when pupils arrived at Hadeem Taim school Saturday morning to find Israeli troops surrounding the school and searching students. Students began stoning the soldiers. The Israelis used tear-gas and opened fire, killing Alaa Abdullah Arandas and injuring 15 other youngsters. Arandas' older brother Sabir was also shot dead by troops in a clash in November, his family said. He was 21 when he died. At least 382 Palestinians have been killed in the uprising which began Dec. 8, 1987. Hours after the schoolyard incident, troops shot dead Nasser Jad Al Haq, 18, during demonstrations in Khan Younis, the hospital officials said. Arandas' family snatched his body from Khan Younis' Nasser Hospital and arranged a hasty funeral, which was followed by a protest march through the camp. In clashes with troops following the funeral, 21 Palestinians were shot and wounded, including Haq, who died in the operating room at Nasser Hospital, hospital officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity. Other wounded included four teenage girls and a 25-year-old man who was in critical condition, hospital officials said. The army imposed a curfew on the camp, confining residents to their homes, but in Gaza City residents burned tyres and closed shops when news of the killings reached them. Four other Palestinians were wounded in clashes in the Dir Al Balah and Rafah camps in the Gaza Strip and in the West Bank's town of Qalqilya, hospital officials said. One of the Gaza wounded was a 15-year-old boy who was transferred to hospital with a fractured skull, an Arab reporter said.

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Red Cross worker shot Doctors named the wounded Swiss as Alexander Anthony and quoted him as saying he and a Red Cross colleague had gone to the Khan Younis school when they heard of the protest there. He said he was standing near a Red Cross car when a soldier pointed a gun at him and shot him twice at close range in the leg. He received multiple fractures, doctors said. Anthony, who was shot in the leg after arriving in Khan Younis to help arrange the evacuation of wounded, according to Frederick Maurice, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Israel and the occupied territories. Anthony had followed ambulances into the camp and was negotiating with troops about the evacuation of

wounded when a fresh wave of clashes erupted and he was wounded, Maurice said. He said the Red Cross was not decided whether to file a complaint with the army. Settlers' rampage Hundreds of Jewish settlers attacked an occupied West Bank village Friday after stone-throwing injured a settler, an army spokesman said. Settlers from the settlement of Ariel in the West Bank went to the nearby village of Azoun after the stoning. The army said it tried to stop them but the settlers pushed past roadblocks. The settlers threw stones and shattered car windshields and Arab residents hurled stones back at them. Troops and police dispersed the crowd with tear-gas.

Soviets to complete Afghan withdrawal within four days

NICOSIA (Agencies) — The withdrawal within four days, chief Soviet negotiator on Afghanistan said Saturday Soviet troops would complete their withdrawal within four days, Iran's official news agency IRNA reported.

"Soviet forces are due to leave Afghan territory within four days and therefore it is necessary that its neighbours exchange views on the future of Afghanistan," IRNA quoted First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov as telling reporters in Tehran. Moscow has said the last of its estimated 115,000 Soviet troops would withdraw from Afghanistan before a U.N.-mandated Feb. 15 deadline. A large Soviet convoy left Kabul Thursday night. Vorontsov was speaking on arrival in Tehran where he was to meet an Iran-based coalition of eight Afghan rebel groups as well as Sibatullah Mojaddidi, leader of the Pakistan-based seven-party alliance. Vorontsov, who also is the Kremlin's ambassador to Kabul, said: "At this juncture, it is necessary to discuss ways of positive reconstruction of that country. It is necessary that its neighbours exchange views on the future of Afghanistan." "But of course the future of Afghanistan concerns only the Afghan people," he stressed. IRNA quoted Vorontsov as saying that reports of a possible military coup by hardline Afghan officers after the Soviet pullout were "baseless."

"There are numerous rumours about Afghanistan but there is no such possibility and it is thoroughly baseless," he stressed. By Friday, only 1,500 Soviet soldiers were left in Afghanistan, according to Soviet and Afghan sources in Kabul. The withdrawal was suspended briefly in November after Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze accused Pakistan and the United States of violating the Geneva accord by sending arms to the Mujahedeen. Several governments are closing their embassies and withdrawing staffs from Kabul because of concern about what will happen in the country after the Soviet withdrawal. British and French diplomats left Kabul Saturday, joining the exodus of western countries closing their embassies in the Afghan capital. A convoy of some 40 tanks, trucks and other military vehicles rolled out of the capital at 3 a.m. (2230 GMT Friday). The day before, a huge column of tanks, armoured personnel carriers and trucks slipped out under cover of darkness and headed up the Salang Highway, the only route between the capital and the Soviet border. Planes flew into and out of Kabul Saturday ferrying supplies of flour and other goods to the capital and airlifting Soviet officials and their families out. In and around the capital, Afghan soldiers patrolled the streets and bazaars. But the armoured personnel carriers once stationed in the crowded markets were gone.

Shevardnadze in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived shortly after midnight Sunday for crucial talks on Afghanistan and asserted the Kremlin wanted peace and tranquillity for Pakistan's northwestern neighbour after the last Soviet soldier leaves. "We want to establish peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan," Shevardnadze told reporters at Islamabad airport, but added without elaboration that "there are a number of problems and questions arising" over the Afghan issue.

LAST-MINUTE NEWS

Rafsanjani says war unlikely to resume
NICOSIA (R) — Iran's acting armed forces chief said Saturday the war with Iraq was unlikely to erupt again but he warned Baghdad to withdraw its forces from Iranian soil. Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani called on Iraq to pull back its troops to internationally recognised borders soon, Iran's news agency IRNA reported. "We think the chances of war resuming again are weak," he said. But he added: "Even if a real peace is achieved, the armed forces should remain highly prepared."

Angola introduces amnesty
LUANDA (R) — The Angolan government introduced an amnesty Saturday which it hopes will help end the country's 13-year-old civil war against U.S.-backed guerrillas. The 12-month amnesty, which follows a peace accord with South Africa in December, is open to rebels of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) who renounce violence and accept the government's authority. The ruling MPLA party, in power since independence in 1975, refuses to negotiate with the rebels.

Spanish minister leaves Morocco
RABAT (R) — Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez left for Madrid Saturday after talks with King Hassan and his ministers on financial cooperation, European Economic Community affairs, the Middle East and Western Sahara. At a news conference Friday night during his 24-hour visit to the southern city of Marrakech, Fernandez Ordonez said the meetings were extremely cordial. The minister said he had renewed an invitation from King Juan Carlos for King Hassan to visit Spain.

Iran holds 1,140 drug traffickers, addicts
NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Saturday that 1,140 drug traffickers and addicts had been arrested in the latest round of a drive to stamp out narcotics abuse. The official IRNA news agency said 33 other traffickers and addicts gave themselves up to officials and hundreds of kilograms of narcotics had been seized. About 100 dealers and users have been executed since Iran began an anti-drug campaign at the start of January, IRNA did not say when the latest arrests and seizures took place.

Kuwait to haul down U.S. flag on tankers
KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait is likely to haul down the U.S. flag on six of its oil tankers later this month after the move is sanctioned by the U.S. maritime administration, a senior shipping source said Saturday. Kuwait registered 11 of its oil tankers in the United States in 1987 at the height of the Gulf war to gain American naval protection from Iranian attack in the waterway. But tension has eased since Iran and Iraq began observing a ceasefire in August ending eight years of fighting. The source said the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) had originally been given until Feb. 22 to conform to U.S. tanker specifications, including all-American crews. But KOTC decided it would be too difficult and costly to meet the requirements on six of the vessels — the gas carriers Gas King, Gas Queen, Gas Princess and Gas Prince and the ultra-modern product carriers Townsend and Middleton. The five that continue to fly the American flag would comply with U.S. rules this year in time for a new February 1990 deadline, the source said.


Qadhafi to receive Nigerian degree
KANO, Nigeria (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi is to be made an honorary doctor of law by the Bayero University in northern Kano, the News Agency of Nigeria said Saturday. It said the degree would be conferred during a university ceremony Feb. 11 but gave no indication as to whether Qadhafi would collect his award in person.

Egypt, Israel agree to resume Taba talks

CAIRO (R) — Egypt and Israel will resume stalled talks Sunday in the dispute over the Red Sea beach of Taba which has bedevilled their relations for six years. A joint statement issued in Cairo by Egypt, Israel and the United States Saturday said two committees would meet in Egypt and Israel to discuss the issues holding up an accord — Israeli access to the beach and compensation for the Israeli hotel there. One committee would meet in Taba to discuss visas and other questions of access, while the other — including owners of the hotel and other buildings — would meet in Cairo. Egyptian and Israeli negotiators will meet Feb. 26 at Taba to discuss the findings of the two committees, the statement said. It said Israel had promised to withdraw from the 700-metre beach once agreement was reached on all related issues. Israel occupied the Sinai peninsula in the 1967 war. It retained Taba when it withdrew from the rest of the peninsula in 1982 under the terms of its 1979 treaty with Egypt. International arbitrators ruled last year that Egypt had sovereignty over the beach, but U.S.-mediated talks on the hand-over bogged down over access and the future of the hotel and tourist village. Egypt's chief negotiator Nabil Al Arabi, Israeli Ambassador Shimon Shamir and U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner issued the statement the day after U.S. State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer presented new proposals to resolve the row. An Egyptian Foreign Ministry official said the U.S. contacts had led to the agreement to resume talks. "The two Egyptian and Israeli governments agreed to extend the period referred to in the Rome agreement Nov. 29 for another 30 days ending Feb. 28 to enable the parties to resume negotiations," the statement said. The Rome accord extended the deadline for implementation of the international arbitration ruling until Jan. 29. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Thursday the delay in resolving the issue had put relations between Egypt and Israel at risk.

Karabakh is 'constant concern for Gorbachev'

STEPANAKERT (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is worried and inquires constantly about Nagorno-Karabakh, says the head of a Kremlin commission sent to calm the feud between ethnic Armenians and Azerbaijanis. In an interview with a Renter correspondent this week Arkady Volsky said the dispute over the enclave was a big drain on the Kremlin but it had to proceed cautiously, saying Nagorno-Karabakh was "no place for the cavalry to solve things." "Gorbachev inquires every two or three days about the situation here," Volsky said in his office in Stepanakert. "He was alarmed. This is a great obstacle to 'perestroika' (Gorbachev's reform programme), it costs time, resources and nerves," he said. The ethnic strife in and around Nagorno-Karabakh, once a forgotten backwater in the Transcaucasian mountains, has killed nearly 80 people in the past year and become one of the Kremlin's most intractable problems. Many local people doubt that Volsky's commission, assigned control of the region two weeks ago, will be able to solve the dispute. There are 142,000 Armenians and 41,000 Azerbaijanis in Nagorno-Karabakh and they all claim the area as part of their ancestral homeland. When Soviet power moved into the area in the 1920s it assigned Nagorno-Karabakh to Azerbaijan. The Armenian majority demanded last February to be unified with neighbouring Soviet Armenia, sparking 11 months of clashes in both Soviet republics. Hundreds of houses and flats were burned, and production in Nagorno-Karabakh and other areas ground to a halt as Armenians went on strike. Troops sent into Nagorno-Karabakh last September still patrol Stepanakert, a city of 33,000 set on a rocky hillside surrounded by weatherbeaten mountains.



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Hoss ready for dialogue with Aoun to end crisis

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The head of Lebanon's civilian government said Saturday he was ready to start talking to a rival military administration if this would help solve the political crisis.

"We are ready if there are signs that this will lead to some kind of accord that will extricate Lebanon from the present situation," acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss told a news conference.

Hoss described his talks in Tunis earlier this week with six Arab foreign ministers as "very positive and fruitful."

The ministerial committee, set up by the Arab League to try to end Lebanon's crisis, also had talks with Parliamentary Speaker Hussein Husseini and Major-General Michel Aoun, head of the rival government.

Last summer Christian deputies twice blocked the Lebanese parliament's attempts to elect a successor to President Amin Gemayel.

Just before his term expired in September, Gemayel appointed Aoun as head of an interim administration but Hoss's cabinet says it is the true government.

After three days of round-the-clock meetings in Tunis Sheikh

Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the Kuwaiti foreign minister and chairman of the committee, said Hoss and Aoun were still at odds, mainly over reforms to the sectarian-based political system.

Hoss said his government insisted that all presidential contenders should present a reform programme to give each sect a fair share in the system, which currently reserves the presidency for a Christian.

"We are aware of the importance of electing a new president but we cannot consider a candidate unless we know his views on reforms," he said.

He said contacts were being increased between the Arab committee and Western states to find a settlement for Lebanon.

Aoun has been briefing Western diplomats, including U.S. Ambassador John McCarthy, on his Tunis talks.

French government envoy Jean Francois Deniau, who arrived in Beirut Friday, met Aoun and

other officials to discuss ways of pushing the Tunis dialogue forward.

Hoss said the committee would consult other Lebanese leaders in Kuwait at the end of this month. It would report back to other Arab foreign ministers and possibly to an Arab League summit.

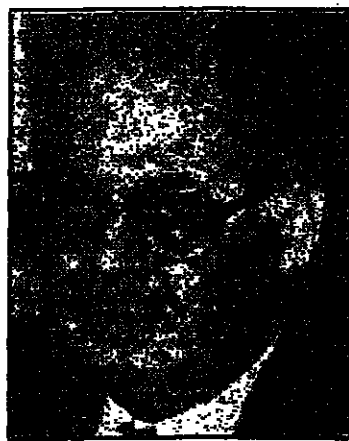
Syrian President Hafez Al Assad met Sheikh Sabah Saturday and wished him success, saying Damascus had wanted for years to end Lebanon's crisis.

One of the obstacles at the talks was Aoun's demand that the committee set a timetable for the withdrawal of some 25,000 Syrian troops from Lebanon.

Hoss said a decision on withdrawal should be approved by a unified cabinet. He said any discussion must be accompanied by a decision to rehabilitate the divided Lebanese army so it would be in a position to take over.

Call for speaker elections

Deputy Kazem Al Khalil urged other members of parliament to meet next Thursday to re-elect or replace Hussein, whose term ended in October when parliament failed to muster a quorum to



Salim Al Hoss

choose a successor.

Some legal experts say Khalil, 84, the oldest member of parliament, has the constitutional right to call for a meeting.

"I hope the deputies will agree to meet next Thursday at Villa Mansour," Khalil said in a statement. Villa Mansour, the parliamentary headquarters, is located in the no-man's land on Beirut's dividing green line.

There was no immediate response to the proposal.

Khalil, who lives in east Beirut, voiced outrage at the split in parliament which he called "the fatal blow" to the country's unity.

If the required quorum is met, they (the deputies) will have a speaker and will pave the way for the election of a new president.

Extension sought for Gulf peace force

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has asked the Security Council to extend the U.N. Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) through Sept. 30.

Also Friday, Perez de Cuellar released a report on the first six months of the peace-keeping mission. In it, he said an outbreak of artillery, small arms and rocket fire that killed two Iraqis Dec. 11 caused the only reported fatalities since the first days of the Aug. 20 ceasefire.

The 350 military observers took up positions along the 1,180-kilometre war front as the eight-year-old war ground to a halt within hours.

"At some points on the ceasefire line the opposing forces remain dangerously close and in one case only 10 metres separate them," Perez de Cuellar wrote in his report.

The Dec. 11 bombardment broke out as a result of "one of the most serious" violations of the ceasefire, Iran's flooding of the Khuz region in the Ahwaz sector to create a moat between the opposing forces.

The flooding began Sept. 16,

and now covers an area over 60 kilometres long and two-to-three kilometres wide from the Salween Canal in the north to within a few kilometres of the Shatt Al Arab waterway in the south, he wrote.

"In the past few days, the Iranian authorities have indicated that they are trying to solve the problem of the flooding," Perez de Cuellar said in his report.

The flooding was the most serious of 1,960 complaints of violations of the ceasefire that the United Nations had received from Iran and Iraq by Jan. 20, the U.N. chief said, adding: "Most of these were very minor in nature and only approximately 25 per cent of them have been confirmed... as violations."

The military observers operate in two-person patrols, "usually by vehicle but sometimes by helicopter, but boat in the southern marshes or by mule-back and on foot — and more recently on skis — in the mountainous north," he wrote.

Twenty-six nations provide the "current 350-strong peacekeeping force: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ghana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland,

Italy, Kenya, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Poland, Senegal, Sweden, Turkey, Uruguay, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

In addition, New Zealand provides a 18-member air unit; Ireland sent 37 military police; and Austria dispatched four medical officers.

The General Assembly has authorised the secretary-general to spend about \$7.9 million a month on the force, which by now would amount to \$47.4 million.

The Security Council is expected to act on Perez de Cuellar's recommendation next Wednesday, when Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz of Iraq and Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran are due to be in New York.

Officials have not said if the ministers will have face-to-face talks as well as see the secretary general.

"For the talks to be successful, both sides have to accept that there will be neither victor nor vanquished at the negotiating table and that the integrity, dignity and honour of both countries will be preserved," Perez de Cuellar said in his report.

Perez de Cuellar said Iran and Iraq had different understandings of the constituent elements of the ceasefire and the subjects that fall within the framework of each paragraph of the council resolution to which the truce responded.

This discrepancy and the underlying issues had made it difficult to proceed with its full and rapid implementation, he said, adding that it was important for council authority that the resolution not remain partially implemented.

The secretary general said he had suggested to the parties measures to build confidence between them and they had recently taken some limited but significant steps.

Among these he mentioned an understanding on the release and repatriation of sick and wounded prisoners of war, joint participation in a mixed military working group and the lifting of certain restrictions on civil aviation.

In the past few months, he said, he and his special representative, Jan Eliasson of Sweden, had worked continuously to develop a basis for mutual trust and overcome the major issues of divergence.

U.N. plans Afghan food relief

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — The United Nations is organising truck convoys to bring food to hungry Afghans in cities under rebel siege. Prince Sadrudin Aga Khan said Saturday.

"We are now organising convoys for food and other relief to Jalalabad and from Iran to Herat," the U.N. coordinator for Afghan humanitarian aid told reporters on arrival in Pakistan for a week-long visit.

Jalalabad, on the road between the capital Kabul and the Pakistani border, is under heavy siege from Afghan Mujahadeen rebels, who say they have sent one 40-truck food convoy to city suburbs which they hold.

According to Western diplomatic sources, the western city of Herat is relatively quiet, but like most Afghan cities, its inhabitants are short of food.

The nine-year Mujahadeen war against the Soviet-backed government in Kabul saw heavy bombing across western Afghanistan

last October, preventing planting, the sources said.

Many people were leaving towns in hope of finding food in the countryside, they added.

Mujahadeen officials said they wanted more U.N. food supplies to distribute in areas they hold and the Aga Khan suggested this would not be a problem.

"We are trying to pre-position supplies all over the place," he said.

The Aga Khan said he would be holding discussions with Mujahadeen leaders based in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar on organising relief convoys.

The United Nations wants to send food by road to Kabul, where a Mujahadeen blockade led to severe food shortages in January.

They were eased only by Soviet air shipments and a major offensive against rebels blocking a vital road running north from Kabul to the Soviet border.

"I hope to have a good exchange with the Afghan (Mujahadeen) leadership on building a humanitarian consensus. This is essential," the Aga Khan said.

"We need to cover shortages for vulnerable groups, particularly women, children, the aged and those in hospital. The situation of these groups is critical."

The Aga Khan said he would also be delivering to the Mujahadeen leaders a political message from U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The message was that "this is a very critical time and we have to give peace a chance," he said.

The last of what was once a 115,000-strong Soviet force backing Kabul is due to have left Afghanistan by Feb. 15 under U.N.-brokered accords signed last April.

The Mujahadeen are planning to hold a consultative council Feb. 10 to approve an interim government that is widely hoped would be able to negotiate peace.

Kenya, Sudan in border dispute

NAIROBI (AP) — Call it the muddle of the maps or the clash of the cartographers — Kenya and Sudan are at it again over a disputed border area of dismal swamp and desert.

The dispute goes back years, but neither side appeared to be paying much attention until recently. Their newfound interest may be spurred not by soil but by oil.

In 1914, the British drew a straight line marking Kenya's northwestern border with Sudan.

But in 1938, the British, who then ruled all three countries as colonies, decided to give Kenya administrative control of a triangular piece of land north of the previous border.

The British administration in Khartoum was unable to police the Turkana who were given to raiding neighbouring countries, and handed over administration to the colonial government in Nairobi, which was much closer.

There the matter rested until 1956, when Sudan gained its independence, followed by Kenya seven years later.

The newly independent governments began drawing their own maps — both claiming the Elment.

Sudan's charge d'affaires in Nairobi, Ali Yousef, speaking to reporters Friday, said that last year Kenya published a new map that not only included the Elment Triangle within its borders but enlarged the triangle by 6,223 square kilometres.

Pressed by reporters at his Friday news conference, Yousef said he did not "have enough information as to who is doing what in this disputed area," but suggested Kenya may have found oil there. President Daniel Arap Moi announced last month that oil had been found in northern Kenya, but did not specify the region.

Dr. Abdul Majid Al Sabahin, (—) Al Sheraa pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA: Dr. Hisham Sharabi (—) Khalil pharmacy (985417)

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Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77710/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26
Army, Marka 59161/15
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Amal Hospital 674155
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Omar National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
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Jabal Amanah Maternity 642342
Madina J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 66171/4
Shamsani Hospital 669131
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The Islamic, Abdali 66127/27
Al-Ahli, Abdali 66116/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77710/3
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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Libya, Syria to join chemical ban

GENEVA (AP) — Libya and Syria have asked to join negotiations on a chemical weapons ban, the secretary general of the Geneva conference on disarmament said Friday. Milan Komatina told reporters he does not expect objections from the 40-nation conference, opening its 1988 session next Tuesday. He noted, however, that a similar request by another non-member, Iraq, had to be turned down last year because Iraq blocked the required consensus at the conference. The United States alleges that Libya is readying for poison gas production at a plant south of Tripoli. Libya says the plant is a pharmaceutical plant. Komatina, a Yugoslav, spoke at the end of a two-week closed-door session of a working group that is preparing the treaty under a mandate first received in 1980. He said last month's Paris conference on chemical arms, which called on negotiators to redouble their efforts, contributed to a "positive" climate for the negotiations.

Thatcher, Howe to meet Arens

LONDON (AP) — Moshe Arens, the new Israeli foreign minister, will meet Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe during a two-day visit to Britain starting Feb. 14, the Foreign Office announced Friday. A Foreign Office spokesman said the meeting would be "very important" but rejected talk of a British initiative on the Middle East. "There is no question of us bringing pressure to bear on the Israelis," he said. "We wish to engage them in a dialogue and that is what we are in the process of doing." The spokesman said discussions with Howe would include British-Israeli relations and the Middle East, including the Israeli-occupied territories.

Canadian to head UNFICYP

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Austrian commander of U.N. peacekeeping forces in Cyprus, Major-General Gunther Greindl, will return to his country's armed forces and be replaced by a Canadian officer, a U.N. spokesman said Friday. Maj.-Gen. Clive Milner will replace Greindl April 3 as part of a routine rotation of duties, said spokesman Francois Giuliani. Secretary General Javier

Perez de Cuellar said Greindl had conducted his U.N. duties "with great distinction and dedication," said Giuliani. Greindl led the U.N. Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) since March 1981, and was previously commander of the U.N. Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the occupied Golan Heights, separating Israeli and Syrian troops. The U.N. Cyprus force is based in Nicosia, and consists of about 2,125 troops and 35 police, who monitor a 180-kilometre-long buffer zone between the Turkish and Greek communities.

Kuwait plans to expand its ports

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait plans to expand its ports to cope with a projected increase in cargo traffic in the 1990s, an official was quoted Saturday as saying. Abdul Rahman Al Nibari, assistant general manager of the General Ports Authority, told Al Qabas newspaper he expected an increase in cargo bound for Kuwait especially in containers. He said this depended on two factors — a formal Iran-Iraq peace agreement and sufficient funding for the region's economies. "The signing of a peace accord between Iraq and Iran would give the green light to shipowners that they will not face any attacks and will help to decrease insurance costs," he said. No attacks have been reported on ships in the Gulf since Iran and Iraq ended eight years of fighting last August with a ceasefire. But talks on a lasting peace have made little progress.

Kuwaitis to help to rebuild Iraqi city

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti welfare groups launched a drive Saturday to raise money to reconstruct Iraq's war-ravaged city of Basra, occupied for two years by Iranian troops. "This campaign will help to rebuild this city which is... a symbol of Arab steadfastness against aggression," Abdullah Al Rusheid, president of the fund-raising committee, told Reuters. Iraq recaptured Basra just across the border from Kuwait, last April in the first of a series of offensives which pushed back Iranian troops and led to a ceasefire in the eight-year war last August. Officials said people in Kuwait had already donated about \$2.5 million to the Basra fund and Rusheid said 20,000 posters had been put up seeking more money.

Mitterrand visits UAE

DUBAI (AP) — French President Francois Mitterrand stopped over in Dubai en route home from India Saturday, and an aide confirmed that a snag that had delayed delivery of Mirage 2000 jet fighters for more than a year has been resolved.

The French president met during his two-hour stopover with United Arab Emirates (UAE) Defence Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid and talked briefly on a tradition show.

French Foreign Trade Minister Jean Marie Ramech later told reporters that the "technical problems" that had held up delivery of the 36 sophisticated, French-built aircraft were ironed out in November.

Delivery of the jet fighters "will begin soon," he said, without disclosing a date or elaborating on the problem and how it was resolved.

France is a major arms supplier of the UAE. Delivery of the planes was supposed to begin in later 1987, but the planes were held up because the UAE requested undisclosed technical specifications which France was reluctant to meet.

Thousands executed in Iran — U.N. report

GENEVA (AP) — Summary executions, arbitrary arrests and reports of torture and arbitrary arrests in Iran continued after the ceasefire in the Gulf war at a scale that "justifies international concern," a United Nations report said Friday.

The report to the U.N. Human Rights Commission said a "wave of summary executions" in 1988, specifically after an assault on Iran by Iraq-based anti-government forces, halted a two-year downward trend in the number of executions.

The 42-page report included an annex listing 1,096 names of people said to have been executed between late July and mid-December. "But it was alleged that there were in all probability several thousand victims," it added.

Many of the executions "were reported to have been carried out in secret, apparently in order to avoid an uproar in the media and international public opinion," it said, noting that Iranian law does not provide for recourse against a death sentence.

"Arrests are apparently so numerous that some high officials have requested the authorities to act with more moderation," said the report, authored by an expert from El Salvador, Reynaldo

Galindo Pohl, mandated by the commission as its special representative.

Detection of family members of persons accused of political crimes in order to obtain information on their whereabouts appears to be a common practice," it said.

"Reports on ill-treatment and torture continued to be received," the report said, adding that "investigation, trial and serving of sentence are reportedly effected under duress, hardships and different kinds of torture."

The report noted that Iran was a party to an international human rights covenant that limited use of capital punishment to the "most serious crimes" and the death sentence and also set other standards not complied with by Iran.

Galindo Pohl, still barred by Iran from visiting the country, said his information was provided from various sources, ranging from witnesses with "personal experience of the facts" to reports in Iranian and other media "and they broadly corroborated each other."

He urged Iran to extend to him "full cooperation" and to ensure "that a firm policy of compliance with international instruments on human rights is adopted and enforced by the highest officials."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 Football match
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Local programme
18:25 Arabic series
19:15 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Variety programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:50 La Baby Sister
18:30 Ecole des Fais
19:00 News in French
19:15 A documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Perfect Strangers
21:10 Politics of Food
22:40 News in English
22:50 The Equilizer

PRAYER TIMES

05:45 Fajr
11:30 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
14:49 'Asr

CHURCHES

17:15 Maghreb
18:34 'Isha

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Teressanta Church Tel. 623666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 717331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717751
Amman International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 825045
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Frost formation is expected in the night and the early hours of the morning. During the day a gradual rise in temperature will occur. Winds will be

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN: Dr. Ramzi Al Mizawi 894788
Dr. Salah Al Issawi 649028
Dr. Othman Mustafa 74024
Dr. Zein Zaghloul 638591
Firas pharmacy 661912
Perdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637085
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsani pharmacy 637660

NIGHT DUTY

IBRD: Dr. Abdul Majid Al Sabahin (—) Al Sheraa pharmacy (985238)
ZARQA: Dr. Hisham Sharabi (—) Khalil pharmacy (985417)

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 642441/2
Jabal Amanah Maternity 642342
Madina J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 66171/4
Shamsani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 645445
Al-Murder Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 66127/27
Al-Ahli, Abdali 66116/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77710/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26
Army, Marka 59161/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Omar National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
IBRD: Princess Beama Hospital (02)755555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)72275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)267100

DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08)13202-5, where it should always be verified.

MARKET PRICES

Upsteflowers price in \$/kg per kg
Apple 300 / 450
Banana 350 / 300
Banana (Mukammar) 300 / 250
Beans 650 / 600
Broad beans 760 / 700
Cabbage 160 / 100
Carrots 240 / 200
Cauliflower 220 / 160
Cucumbers 470 / 400
Dates 600 / 500
Eggplant 200 / 150
Garlic 280 / 200
Grapefruit 200 / 160
Lemon 250 / 200
Lettuce (per one) 120 / 100
Marrow (large) 350 / 300
Marrow (small) 300 / 450
Orange (Shamouti) 360 / 300
Orange (local) 250 / 200
Onion (dry) 230 / 180
Onion (green) 240 / 200
Pepper (hot) 600 / 500
Pepper (sweet) 450 / 400
Potato 250 / 200
Spinach 200 / 160
Mandarin 340 / 280
Tomatoes 220 / 180

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
09:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
10:15 Larana (RJ)
10:25 Agaba, Jeddah (RJ)
10:45 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
17:05 Paris (RJ)
17:10 London (RJ)
17:15 Cairo (RJ)
17:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:45 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
17:55 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:45 Rome (RJ)
00:20 Baghdad (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:35 Cairo (MS)
10:00 Damascus (AF)
10:30 Kuwait (KU)

11:20 Damascus (AZ)
12:45 Muscat, Sharjah, Doha (GF)
15:15 Dubai (EK)
16:35 Athens, Damascus (OA)
19:45 Beirut (MT)
19:15 Frankfurt (LH)
00:25 London, Cairo (BA)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

447 killed in different incidents last year

AMMAN (J.T.) — Civil Defence Department (CDD) records indicate that a total of 447 persons were killed and 12,968 others were injured in different types of accidents and incidents that occurred in the Kingdom in the past year, according to CDD Director General, Khaled Tarawneh.

The past year witnessed a greater number of "recorded incidents" than before because of an increase in the number of civil defence centres in many parts of the Kingdom, which were called on to give assistance, and not because the incidents increased in number, over previous years, Tarawneh noted in an interview published in Al-Rai Arabic daily Saturday.

He said that the CDD operations included rescue work, first aid and fire fighting among other activities which were provided to the public in the past year.

Apart from the loss in life, the incidents and accidents in the country caused damages estimated in millions of dinars, Tarawneh pointed out.

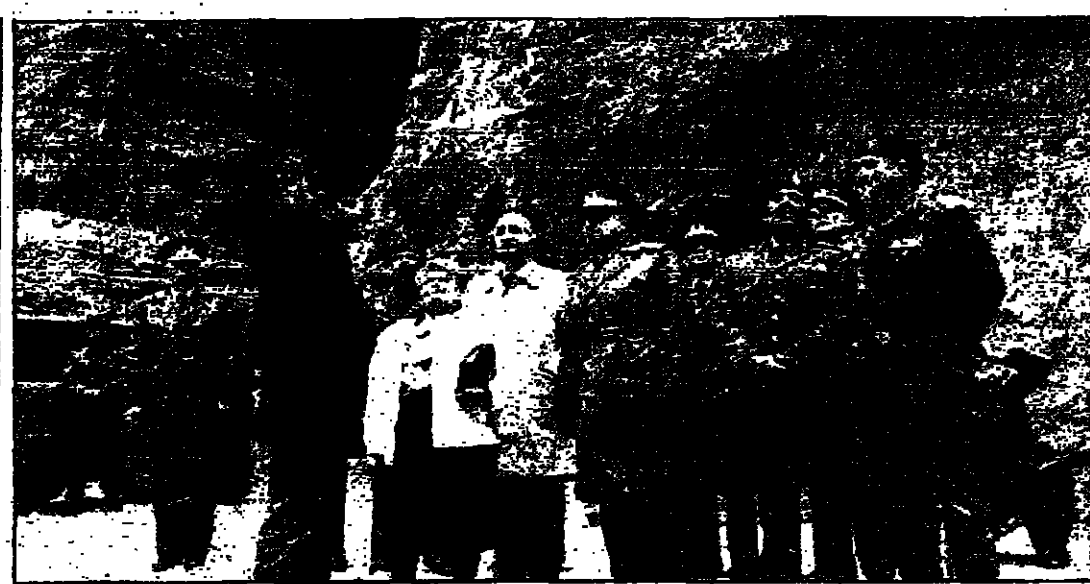
He expressed hope that the CDD would be provided with helicopters to help carry out rescue operations whenever this is necessary.

The CDD now plans to open a special institute to recruit and train staff who will carry out rescue, first aid and fire fighting operations, and it is hoped that such an institute will be sufficient for the country from now until the year 2000, Tarawneh noted.

He said that the CDD provides great service to travellers on the road through the various emergency and rescue centres, especially those installed near or along the main highways.

The CDD also provides a very useful service to factories and businesses through the early alarm system, which enables fire-fighters and rescue men from the CDD to reach the scene of accidents in a relatively short time to deal with emergency situations, Tarawneh added.

In the interview, Tarawneh also spoke about the CDD's data bank which was lately installed and which, he said, provides all valuable information for the dealing with incidents.



Turkish Army Chief of Staff General Necati Tirmatay and his accompanying delegation Friday visit the ancient Nabatean city of Petra.

Turkish chief of staff ends visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Turkish Army Chief of Staff General Necati Tirmatay wound up a visit to Jordan Saturday and left for home. He was seen off by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb and senior army officers.

During the visit to Jordan the Turkish guest was received by His Majesty King Hussein and had talks with Jordanian officials.

The Turkish general Friday visited frontline army positions and was briefed by commanders on the Karamah Battle in the Jordan Valley.

Also Friday, Tirmatay visited the ancient Nabatean city of Petra, accompanied by the Turkish delegation and senior army officers.

His tour in the south took him to the port city of Aqaba where he inspected the coast guard operations and he went out on a short cruise in the region.

He later visited the Martyrs Monument in the Jordan Valley and the King Hussein Bridge.

9 Arab countries to discuss teaching science, technology

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Delegates from nine Arab countries, affiliated to an international information network, run by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), will open a meeting here Monday to discuss matters related to the teaching of science and technology in the Arab World.

The meeting, he said, is designed to help improve and update the Arab World's curricula in science and technology at the various school levels.

Jordan has been a member of the UNESCO-affiliated international information network since 1984.

Over the years, UNESCO has set up various forms of inter-governmental cooperation.

RCC to host Italian cultural programmes

AMMAN (J.T.) — Activities and programmes reflecting Italian culture will be on show at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman during 1989, according to an announcement by the Italian embassy Saturday.

The statement said that these activities were discussed by Italian Ambassador Francesco de Courten during his visit to the RCC with its Acting Director Hani Saobar, who briefed the ambassador on facilities and arrangements for the coming programmes.

Among the activities that the Italian embassy will organise this year at the RCC will be a lecture held by Prof. Nazzareno Gabrieli, director of the Laboratories of the Vatican Museums, about the restoration works of the frescoes of the Sistine Chapel in Rome, a photographic exhibition of Italian painters of the 16th century and an Italian film week.

American film festival starts today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The American Centre begins its week long film festival entitled "Independent Filmmakers and Small Studios" Sunday.

The five films: Close Encounters of the Third Kind, Raising Arizona, Fandango, Heart Like a Wheel and the Big Easy will at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC).

Close Encounters of the Third Kind, which will be showing on opening night, concentrates on two midwesterners who find their lives enormously changed in the wake of a series of UFO sightings. The woman (Teri Garr) undertakes a desperate search for her missing son, and a workman (Richard Dreyfuss) develops an inexplicable obsession with the alien space ships.

On Monday Raising Arizona, a rollicking comedy starring Nicolas Cage and Holly Hunter, will be presented. Cage is a convenience store robber who gets caught and jailed often enough to fall in love with his booking officer, Hunter. He reforms and they marry and set out in search of their own version of middle class success. Things turn sour when they find that Hunter can not have children, and they cannot adopt because of Cage's prison record.

Sam Roberts, Judd Nelson and Kevin Costner star in Fandango, playing Tuesday. The film begins in a fraternity house at the University of Texas on graduation night in 1971. Five friends are finishing school with Roberts having cold feet about getting married. Nelson is more ambivalent than he appears about fulfilling his ROTC commitment, and Costner is planning to run away to Mexico rather than answer his draft notice. The film is a farcical account of how the group resolves these problems in the course of a last wild outing to the Mexican border.

On Wednesday, Heart Like a Wheel will be showing. Bonnie Bedelia, plays the wife of a service station owner, who will stop at nothing to become the first woman race car driver in the U.S. Two veteran drivers, Bill McKinney and Beau Bridges, help her challenge the national hot rod association's ban on women drivers.

The final movie, the Big Easy, is a romantic comedy and a police thriller starring Dennis Quaid and Ellen Barkin. Quaid plays a New Orleans police detective who blindly accepts the petty corruption that he and his colleagues benefit from. Barkin is an out-of-state assistant district attorney sent to New Orleans to investigate a series of murders. She initially turns to Quaid for help in her investigation, and the two fall in love. But, Quaid is assigned to the prosecution.

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Horani — the most brilliant performer in the past decade

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The piano recital given by Lebanese artist Walid Horani last Wednesday, Feb. 1, 1989, at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman might be considered as a milestone and probably as the most brilliant classical performance in Jordan, in the past decade.

Horani first smart was the selection of a pleasing and attractive programme. Nineteenth century compositions exclusively, Arabesque by Schumann, 1 Etude, 2 Polonaises and 4 Waltzes by Chopin and in the second part, Modest Mussorgsky's famous "Pictures at an Exhibition".

MUSIC REVIEW

The most difficult part in describing or explaining Horani's performance, is trying to pinpoint a weakness in his exceptional pianistic playing. At the risk of sounding exaggerated, the only term which would faithfully translate the quality of the performance is "perfection". Who says it does not exist? Mrs. Lily H. attending the event asked: "Could Chopin himself have been a better pianist?"

Horani combines, the exact dose, the ingredients that every



Walid Horani

audience knew, ended in a thunder of applause.

Played on the piano by Walid Horani, the "Pictures at an Exhibition" sounded as rich as superb as on the orchestral version arranged by Maurice Ravel. Changing from the slow and beautiful tempo of "Promenade" to the broken one of "The Gnome" Horani took the visitor from picture to picture, thus perfectly conveying Mussorgsky's idea.

The public would not leave before 3 enthusiastic encores.

A rare sense of the keyboard dynamics, more particularly in Chopin's Polonaises, combined to appropriate attacks enable Horani to fully use the expressive potential of the piano, obtain superb tonal balance and colours, and turn the instrument to a full size orchestra.

Horani is excellent proof of how a performer can reach technical perfection and still remain warm and emotional in his interpretation.

Walid Horani was born in New York in 1948, has lived in Beirut and had his name linked to famous musicians like Aram Khatchaturian and Eugene Ormandy. The unique concert was presented by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Amman, in cooperation with the RCC.

Jordan and Egypt await final approval to link national grids

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A \$170 million project to link the national grids of Egypt and Jordan was discussed by the latest joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee in Cairo last month, and concerned authorities in the two countries are now awaiting final approval for the project, according to an official from the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Saturday.

Ribhi Hamed, the JEA chief engineer, said that the linkage will take place through the Aqaba Thermal Power Station, which is on the Gulf of Aqaba, and the Sinai Desert.

The process entails laying a 12-kilometre, 400 kilovolt line from Aqaba to be linked to a 12-kilometre long submarine cable to reach the Sinai coast where it will be linked to a 290-kilometre, 500-kilovolt line into the Egyptian territory, Hamed noted in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The whole project, he said, is expected to take four years to be implemented but the two authorities are still to complete agreement on sources of finance.

The two sides last month announced completion of consultancy work in cooperation with a

French firm, and a full report on the project was submitted to the higher committee meeting in Cairo.

According to JEA officials, work on the project can begin this year, but it will not be operational before 1993.

The linkage with Egypt, Hamed said, will help the two sides deal with emergency power shortages in their countries which will benefit from low-cost power generation.

Under the feasibility study agreement with a French firm, Jordan and Egypt left an option clause for possible inclusion of Saudi Arabia should Riyadh decide to join in.

High level contacts were earlier held between Riyadh, Amman and Cairo to explore the prospect of Saudi Arabian participation in

the network as a third partner. Hamed was quoted earlier as saying that the door was open for Syria and Turkey to link their grids with the projected network in a manner similar to a network linking European nations.

On Jan. 17, Jordan and four Middle Eastern countries agreed to set up for the first time, a power grid interconnection in the region. Ministers of Energy from Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Turkey decided to start preliminary studies on the project.

The Islamic Development Bank would finance the cost of the preliminary studies with a grant.

An earlier Petra story said that the five countries were also contemplating the idea of linking their grids at a later stage with that of Europe through Turkey.

The report from JEA coincided with the arrival here Saturday by a team representing the Egyptian Electricity Corporation on a several day visit to Jordan and talks with JEA officials.

A JEA spokesman said that the two sides will discuss technical matters related to the project, and the subject of promoting electricity generation in the two countries.

Ministry to reduce one third of annual fresh meat imports

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply plans to reduce by one third the Kingdom's annual imports of fresh meat and will make up for the reduction by importing additional amounts of frozen meat, mostly from New Zealand, according to Minister of Supply Fayez Tarawneh.

"The Kingdom imports some 15,000 tonnes of fresh mutton and 10,000 tonnes of beef every year in addition to unspecified quantities of frozen meat and fish at the overall cost of \$60-70 million. But something should be done to lessen dependence on imported food supplies and offer consumers suitable alternatives to imported fresh meat to make a balance and to provide suitable alternatives in case fresh meat was delayed," the minister said in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"The government hopes to encourage farmers to increase the animal wealth and so it has stopped the process of exporting live sheep." Instead, the government allowed merchants to import them, the minister noted.

The Ministry of Supply does not want to stop fresh meat from coming since frozen food can by no means serve as a substitute for fresh food, the minister added.

Tarawneh said that frozen meat imported from New Zealand proved to be good quality, and can reach Jordan by ship which is cheaper than bringing in fresh meat by air which costs the ministry some \$600 per tonne for

each shipment.

"We wonder why citizens shun eating frozen meat, which is used by first class hotels in Jordan, and at the same time go on consuming frozen fish and poultry meat without any complaints," the minister said.

But, he added, the ministry will not flood the markets with frozen meat, neither will it stop imports of fresh meat so that it can cater to the tastes of all people and in a balanced manner.

The Ministry of Supply, in its drive to ensure sufficient food supplies in the country, "has a standing policy of maintaining food commodities sufficient for six months, and in a drive to ensure food supplies at reasonable prices, it will continue the policy of subsidising basic supplies," Tarawneh announced.

He said in 1989 the government's total subsidies for food supplies will reach JD 50 million.

The minister said that the past year witnessed a sharp rise in the prices of food commodities and cited wheat which said rose to \$170 from \$80 per tonne.

The prices of sugar, flour, and rice also rose but the government continues to sell consumers at subsidised rates, the minister pointed out.

He said that the Ministry of Supply is planning an expansion of its grain silos during 1989 to raise the total capacity to half a million tonnes, up from 325,000.

Referring to imported dried milk, the minister said that the

Ministry of Supply has sufficient milk for three to four months and denied rumours that there will soon be a hike in the milk prices.

Milk is another commodity the price of which rose sharply by no less than 35 per cent on world markets, and the European Community countries which sell Jordan milk, last year stopped all subsidies to European farmers, thus further boosting the prices, Tarawneh noted.

The Ministry of Supply, he added, sells one kilogramme of dried milk at 720 fils while it imports it at the rate of 1,100 fils.

Tarawneh said that the ministry, through the Civil Service Consumer Corporation, is providing basic food supplies and other commodities to civil servants and their families, who are estimated to be 900,000, while the Military Consumer Corporation is taking a similar measure, helping the military and public security personnel.

The minister said that Jordanians consume 10 per cent more than is produced locally, and this calls for a reduction in general consumption on the part of all citizens and a rationalisation of all expenses.

Referring to a ban imposed by the government on the importation of cars and other commodities and luxury goods until the end of 1989, the minister said this is expected to save \$180 million which the government can put to a more beneficial use.

WAJ spent JD 117,000 on Balqa water network projects in 1988

SALT (Petra) — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) last year spent JD 117,000 on water network projects within the Balqa Governorate, benefiting three towns and population centres mostly in the Jordan Valley, according to WAJ director in Salt, Ibrahim Abu Shams.

Abu Shams said that 99 per cent of the residents' homes in

the governorate now receive water supply from the networks, but WAJ is taking other measures to cover all population centres and villages in this service by 1990.

Almost 70 per cent of homes in the governorate are linked to the sewerage network and WAJ technical teams are now involved in further expansions, Abu Shams noted.

He said that the WAJ department has embarked on drilling more artesian wells in Baqaa and Ain Al Basha, and has worked out a plan to improve water exploitation processes.

The WAJ department in Ma'an announced that it spent JD 2.1 million on a three-year project that entailed laying sewerage networks in Ma'an city.

Jordan needs 430,000 housing units to meet demands until the year 2000

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Housing Corporation estimates that the Kingdom is in need of 430,000 housing units to meet the local demands for housing from now until the year 2000.

Corporation Director Yousef Hiyasat said that the construction of units should be at the rate of 17,000 to 23,000 annually, in order to meet the demand on housing.

But in a statement published Saturday by Al-Dustour Arabic daily, Hiyasat said that the corporation now has a total of 514 units which it built in Maqra, Ma'an, Sahab, Ajloun, Jerash, Tafleh, Marka and Irbid for the benefit of employees during their employment with the government but are still vacant.

Normally the corporation neither loses nor makes any profits out of its units, built mainly to benefit the limited income families in Jordan, but a large housing estate built at Abu Nuseir, near Amman, cost JD 81 million and caused a JD 30 million loss for the government.

Hiyasat said that the government had exempted the beneficiaries from paying the cost of central heating systems, sewerage networks and other civil works, and allowed them to pay the cost of their units over a period extending for up to 30 years, Hiyasat explained.

He said that the corporation collects about JD 4.5 million from beneficiaries to pay loans and interest on the loans acquired from the housing banks and other sources.

The corporation's present debt stands at JD 68 million which, he said, becomes mature by 1992. Debts are due to the Housing Bank, the Central Bank of Jordan and the Social Security Corporation (SSC), but those for the SSC have been spread over 20 years, Hiyasat added.

Only part of the land at Abu Nuseir had been used for building the units and the corporation plans to divide the rest into plots to be sold to the public especially to those who had not benefited

from the corporation's previous projects, Hiyasat pointed out.

In reply to a question about the delay in installing and operating the central heating systems at Abu Nuseir, especially as the weather is very cold, Hiyasat said that the contractor had difficulty in carrying out the project due to a number of reasons and because the central heating tender was only recently awarded — allowing no sufficient time for the installation of the boilers and the network.

Hiyasat said that every 50 units are connected into one integrated system and linked to a single boiler, and each unit has to pay JD 12 to JD 30 a month if they want to benefit from this service, according to the size and area of each unit.

Hiyasat said that committees have been set up to deal with the question of organising the process of providing heat, conducting maintenance on the boilers and the networks and ensuring the collection of the cost of operations.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An agricultural exhibition displaying agricultural equipment and products at the Professional Association Complex.
- * A computer exhibition displaying a new line of computers with greater performance and new power at Marriott Hotel in Amman.
- * The Arab book exhibition that includes books on different topics at Yarmouk University.

FILM

- * A film entitled "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" which is shown as part of the activities of the American Centre 1989 film festival on Independent Filmmakers — 8:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

Dinar comes under renewed pressure

By Dr. Fahed Faneh

AFTER two months of relative stability in the exchange rate between the dinar and the dollar, the rate started to rise as of January 21 to reach 550 fils per dollar within a week, a rise of over 5 per cent.

Until then the rise of the dollar should not have received much attention, because the dollar rose internationally against all currencies with varied rates. It was only normal for the dollar exchange rate against the dinar to rise.

But this trend gained momentum of its own, and exceeded the limits warranted by the international gains of the dollar. The dinar came under renewed pressure, and by February 2, the domestic dollar rate in the local free market passed the 600 fils psychological barrier.

Two explanations may be offered. One relates to the fundamentals of the economy, such as the doubts about the prospects of future Arab aid to Jordan. The other relates to local market mechanism and tactics, such as the near withdrawal of a large bank from the market either due to lack of supply of dollars or as part of a power show off. It was normal for the smaller banks to react nervously, and follow the steps of the said bank, and cease to fund the dollar requirements of the market, which in turn sent the dollar up beyond expectations.

The last two weeks did not witness any negative economic or financial development to justify the steep decline of the dinar at 5 per cent or 15 per cent or any other percentage. Of course the negative factors were there, and the economic difficulties were still facing us, but they are under control, and the panic was behind us.

It is agreed that the inflow of foreign currencies in the form of expatriates' remittances and exports proceeds is sufficient to take care of all the ordinary foreign currency requirements of the private sector. The simple evidence is that the market was able to finance smoothly the previous imports and the letters of credits for future imports simultaneously, without a penny from the Central Bank, while the commercial banks were accumulating more dollars in reserve. Therefore, the real challenge is the efficient management to secure proper matching and fine-tuning of the country's receipts and payments in foreign exchange, and avoidance of bottle necks.

We definitely prefer to leave the whole operation in the hands of a large number of competing banks and financial corporations. It is far better to keep an active and free market in place to produce the needed signals for decision-makings rather than

giving the Central Bank full monopoly on receipts, payments and reserves of foreign exchange. In the latter case, distortions may take place, because the priorities and prices may be determined on political and administrative considerations, rather than on economic and financial basis, as they are supposed to be now.

However, the preservation of the present free banking system calls for larger banks not to try to overplay the market, outmanoeuvre the authorities, or act on personal whims to manipulate exchange rates. Such behaviour is irresponsible and may hurt, not only the public interest, but also the interests of the banks concerned.

Many analysts believe that the dinar declined much more than it should, and that it shifted from the state of overvalued currency to the opposite state of an undervalued currency. Even if we consider the current exchange rate as being fair and realistic, being determined freely in the market, the chances of future rise or decline are almost equal. Therefore, speculation against the dinar may give rise to profits but may cause losses. The only speculation that can guarantee benefits is that practiced by the big banks, who control a major chunk of the market. The enlightened self interest of those banks should prevent them from exploiting their control, and playing power games.

Hurrah for the intifada

THE PALESTINIAN decision to faithfully and effectively boycott Israeli goods and to stop payment of taxes to the occupation authorities give the Palestinian uprising a new momentum and dimension. These newly adopted measures in the occupied territories constitute an effective escalation of the Palestinian intifada and puts it in a new high gear that cannot be halted save by an Israeli withdrawal and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. For even Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to start talking about the idea of Israeli withdrawal from urban centres in the West Bank and Gaza Strip reflects the magnitude of the Palestinian revolt and the extent of its achievements. It is a safe bet to conclude that the Palestinian insurrection which already gave birth to an Israeli offer to withdraw from cities and towns in the occupied territories after only fourteen months on its course can bring about a more comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories in the course of the next year or so. And now that the Palestinian uprising has added new features to its struggle in the form of a complete boycott of Israeli goods and services and the total disruption of tax collection, the economic and military cost of the Israeli occupation will become unbearable indeed. These developments would provide the kind of environment which is conducive to a real settlement of the Palestinian conflict. And what propelled the Palestinian sustained struggle against formidable odds in the first place is the desperate feeling among the Palestinians that after many decades of waiting now is the time to move on till the bitter-sweet end or never. This sense of determination and political will has always been absent in all previous Palestinian efforts to assert their rights no matter how high is the price that they have to incur. Indeed that is how all the other liberation movements succeeded worldwide in attaining their aspirations and objectives. And while Israeli authorities are pretending that they are not bending in the face of the uprising storm, the facts indicate otherwise. Israelis of all walks of life and of all political denominations are now painstakingly involved in deep soul searching about the next moves, and by the looks of things they could very well end up heeding the message of common sense and goodwill. This is the first hurrah for the Palestinian uprising.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Saturday said that Israel has succeeded temporarily in delaying the achievement of peace in the Middle East by continuing to refuse the idea of an international conference and by closing its ears to the call of the world to give the Palestinians their rights in their homeland. The paper said that Israel has a great interest in maintaining the no-war, no-peace status quo in the region because this situation offers in the chance to pursue its Jewish settlement programmes and enables it to rally different groups inside Israel towards a common cause. It said that the uprising in the occupied Palestinian land has changed this strategy and threatened Israel's interests; and for this reason Israeli leaders nowadays have opted to new policies and a new propaganda war against the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular. The paper said that the Israeli government is now putting it about that it is the PLO which is obstructing the path of peace and is backed in this endeavour by the Arab countries. It will not be surprising to hear Israel fabricating new falsehoods and making up new stories for the sake of aborting all efforts leading towards peace because its leaders are clearly oriented against achieving that goal, the paper said.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily discusses the question of the proposed educational university and asks about the wisdom of having a fifth university in Jordan solely for the purpose of training teachers. Salah Abdul Samad says that training of teachers could be done through the existing universities and through the specialised community colleges in the Kingdom. The existing institutions can do this job easily since they already have the facilities; and entrusting them with this task can obviously save us lot of needless expenses, the writer notes. The writer also asks about the wisdom of placing the proposed university directly under the supervision of the Higher Council of Science and Technology, and says that the Ministries of Education and Higher Education can easily keep control over the higher institutes of learning in the country as they have been successfully doing that until now.

Al Dustour daily newspaper discussed Egypt's new policy towards Israel which is stalling and procrastinating its withdrawal from the occupied enclave of Taba. The paper paid tribute to President Hosni Mubarak who, it said, had expressed the thoughts of the Egyptian people in condemning Israel's stubbornness and its delays in implementing the resolution of an international panel of arbitrators which ruled that Egypt should take possession of the enclave which belonged to it in accordance with international boundaries. If Israel is so stubborn about a strip of land in the Sinai desert, what would it do about its withdrawal from the occupied parts of Palestine when the time comes? asked the paper. It said that Israel's stalling in this matter shows clearly that it wants to exercise blackmail against Egypt to adopt policies considered hostile to the Arab Nation. We back Mubarak's efforts and take pride in Egypt's stand in this matter, and consider this policy as honourable, and in line with the Arab Nation's stand, the paper said.

Sart Al Shaab daily discussed the question of Taba and said Israel was placing obstacles in the path of the return of this enclave to Egyptian sovereignty as it believes that by procrastinating, the Egyptians would be forced to give up their rights. The paper said that Israel is doing now is a form of open blackmail against Egypt, putting that country under pressure to force it to steer away from its present course of backing Arab causes. For Israel it said one thing is viable: To undertake any measure that would perpetuate its presence in the Arab land by all means and at any cost.

By Reginald Dale

DAVOS, Switzerland — A fashionable, almost Orwellian vision of the 1990s sees the world divided into three giant, warring blocs: North America, Europe and Eastern Asia. Unlike Orwell's superstates, which constantly waged conventional warfare, today's emerging blocs would battle with trade and economic weapons.

Few international economic gatherings nowadays are complete without warnings of the dangers of such a development. And this year's World Economic Forum in Davos has been no exception.

"There is a very great danger in the emergence of three blocs, that world trade will be reduced to these three zones," Helmut Haussmann, the West German economics minister, told the 900 delegates attending the annual business conference in this Swiss ski resort.

The North American bloc, according to the conventional wisdom, will be led by the United States and include Canada and, possibly later, Mexico.

Western Europe, and possibly later Eastern Europe, will coalesce around the European Community's post-1992 single market. And Japan will lead a league of fast-growing Asian economies.

"The 1990s will see freer trade inside the regional blocs and much less trade between them," said Lester C. Thurow of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the Geneva-based custodian of the multilateral world trading system, "is dead," Thurow provocatively announced.

But many of the other participants at this year's forum questioned the inevitability of such a doom-laden scenario.

After private discussions among 60 or so of the delegates, Raymond Barre, the former prime minister of France, said the problem of blocs "appeared to be rather illusory." It is not in a country's interest to be a bloc member if that means losing essential outside markets and submitting to political domination by the leading member, he said.

"If we can maintain multilateral discussions, maintain the principle of limiting trade diversion by respecting international agreements, and promote trade creation, there is no danger that we will have three blocs," Barre added.

Few would disagree that a successful conclusion of the current so-called Uruguay round of multilateral trade negotiations would help to reduce the danger that the regional blocs will be hostile.

Some economists believe that blocs, if they had open trading

policies, could even promote rather than obstruct world trade.

But Barre's other arguments appeared to presume that most governments could choose whether to join blocs, rather than find themselves forced into them, as some delegates predicted.

"The pressures of world's structural trade and financial imbalances are pushing countries into blocs," said John Eatwell, professor of economics at Cambridge University.

Eishiro Saito, chairman of the Keidanren, the powerful Japanese Federation of Economic Organisations, said the EC clearly was not deliberately aiming to erect barriers against the outside world.

But, he said, he could not ignore the concern of Japanese business, and warnings from inside the EC, that Europe was nevertheless drifting toward the bloc approach.

As the Davos conference again

confirmed, it is the Asian countries that are the most worried. That is partly because they are so reliant on the U.S. and European markets, partly because there is as yet no homogeneous Asian bloc on the lines of the European Community or the U.S.-Canadian free trade area.

Soon Cho, the deputy prime minister of South Korea, said his country, Taiwan and other newly industrialising Asian economies had been developing trade with the United States and Europe, rather than among themselves.

Nevertheless, he forecast that while Asian governments were not yet ready to enter into formal agreements, "some kind of de facto economic integration will develop in northeast Asia."

And the shapes of the other blocs are still far from settled. European delegates here spoke frequently of the need for the EC to forge closer economic links not only with non-member countries in Western Europe, such as Au-

stria, Switzerland and the Scandinavian nations, but also with Eastern Europe.

Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, the EC executive body, said that even if political differences remained, the EC could some day extend its single internal market to include Eastern Europe.

"One of the key questions," Thurow said, "is whether the Soviet Union is in or out of the European trading bloc. First, however, the Soviet Union has to find out how to make something the rest of the world wants to buy."

However, he said, blocs could "be a positive, step toward a world economy. Maybe the world could grow faster."

If the world economy continues to grow, and the Uruguay round succeeds, said another European delegate, the blocs might even be reasonably friendly — International Herald Tribune.



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'Shamir walking tightrope'

By Paul Taylor

TEL AVIV — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is walking a tightrope as he works on proposals for a political solution to a Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israeli analysts say. Shamir must remain faithful to his hardline Likud Party's demand for sovereignty over the entire area of "Greater Israel" and to its adamant refusal to talk directly to the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

At the same time, analysts say, he needs to show enough flexibility to draw Palestinians and Arabs into peace talks, or at least convince the United States and Europe that Israel is pursuing a fair solution in good faith and cannot be blamed for deadlock.

"Shamir is sounding flexible to ease international pressure on Israel but he is keeping his real cards close to his chest," a foreign ministry official said.

"He knows that if he comes out with a complete peace plan, the Arabs will reject it and it will be still-born."

The 73-year-old right-wing leader, long wedded to a status quo that appeared to favour Israel until the uprising erupted in December 1987, announced shortly after forming a new national unity cabinet last December that he was working on a peace initiative.

Aides say he will take proposals to Washington in March or April when he pays his first visit to President Bush.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, whom Shamir tends to trust despite his membership of the rival Labour Party, is sounding out Palestinians in the occupied territories on their conditions for easing the uprising.

Despite continuing high daily casualties, there are signs Israel is easing some restrictions on Palestinians and seeking a dialogue in anticipation of a peace initiative.

Arab editors say censorship of the Palestinian press has eased a little. A ban on political activity in the occupied territories is being enforced slightly more liberally and Faisal Husseini, a key political prisoner, has been released. Rabin last month set out his

own peace proposals, based on elections in the occupied territories followed by a period of autonomy and an eventual confederation between the Palestinians and either Jordan or Israel.

Palestinian leaders rejected the plan because it failed to address their demands for self-determination and statehood, excluded the PLO and sought to split Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza from Palestinians abroad.

Shamir is meanwhile stressing those elements in Israeli policy which sound most flexible and appealing to Western ears.

Wednesday's statement, that Israel would withdraw troops from populated areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip once Palestinian autonomy was established, was an example.

The pullback to specified troop locations outside the cities was part of the 1978 Israeli-Egyptian Camp David accords, long rejected by the rest of the Arab World.

But the fact that Shamir chose to stress the point now, when Israeli troops are involved in daily confrontations with Palestinians in the cities and refugee

camps, seemed to signal his willingness to contemplate a fundamental relinquishing of control over the Palestinians.

His remarks drew angry protests from Jewish West Bank settlers, who have sensed a possible betrayal ever since Shamir preferred a coalition with Labour to forming a narrow right-wing government with hardline nationalist and religious factions.

Palestinians are trying to deflect the Israeli proposals, which fail to address their basic demands, without appearing to be rejectionists.

The nationalist daily Al Fajr commented: "All current Israeli plans, whether they come from Shamir, Rabin or any other minister floating trial balloons, will not be any more than a propaganda game aimed at helping Israel out of its isolation."

The left-wing Al Shaab added: "The Israeli peace initiatives and statements, which seem to carry a new tone, are no more than an attempt to undermine the right political settlement, which has been supported by the international community."

Sudan's peace hopes diminish

By Hamza Hendawi

Reuter

NICOSIA — Hopes of ending the civil war in the famine-ravaged south of Sudan have diminished with the rise within the ruling coalition of Islamic militants advocating a military solution to the conflict, diplomats said.

Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi Wednesday appointed his brother-in-law, the leader of the National Islamic Front (NIF) Party Hassan Al Tourabi, as foreign minister. He is married to Mahdi's sister.

Tourabi has recently made overtures to Libya, the only foreign country known to be militarily involved in the five-year war against southern animists and Christians fighting what they claim as dominance by the Muslim north.

The Libyan airforce has flown bombing missions against strongholds of the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) in the south for the Khartoum government and the rebels have claimed to have captured several Libyan pilots.

Tourabi has backed Mahdi's Umma Party in its support for Sudanese-Libyan unity.

NIF is the most vocal advocate of a return to strict Islamic Sharia law with amputation for thieves and execution for adulterers, proposals anathema to the SPLA which have helped swell rebel ranks.

With NIF the coalition's second largest party after Umma, Mahdi will have little room for manoeuvre in his cautious efforts to end the war, diplomats said.

Sudan's Western backers and many Arab states were uncertain whether Mahdi himself was sincerely working for a peaceful settlement, some diplomats said.

The consolidation of NIF's position in government came less than a week after rebels captured the strategic southern town of Al Nasir near the Ethiopian border.

Mahdi and NIF rejected a peace pact signed last November between the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and the SPLA.

The pact, which won wide support at home and abroad, called for a freeze on the introduction of strict Islamic sharia laws before a national constitutional conference was held.

DUP, after more than two years of partnership with Umma, quit the government in protest at the plan's rejection and joined the several south Sudanese parties in opposition.

The five-year civil war has caused incalculable suffering to the six million inhabitants of the south, forcing at least half of them to flee. Tens of thousands

starved to death last year and relief workers say more would die in 1989 unless relief supplies reach them.

The SPLA, with an estimated 40,000 armed men, refuses to reopen peace talks until the government approves its accord with the DUP and has vowed to step up the fighting.

Foreign military experts in Khartoum and the Sudanese military believe the conflict can not be settled militarily.

But diplomats say NIF was convinced that an all-out offensive against the rebels would force the SPLA to enter peace talks unconditionally.

With the army's estimated 60,000 men stretched to the limit, poorly-equipped and demoralised following recent rebel successes, NIF hopes Arab and Muslim states will contribute massive military aid to repel what they see as a threat to Islam and Arabism in Sudan, the diplomats said.

NIF, whose following is mainly in urban centres and among students and businessmen, is suspicious of Western efforts to end the conflict and send relief supplies to famine victims in the south.

Allegations that many foreign aid workers are spies, that foreign countries are meddling in Sudan's internal affairs and that Christian churches were siding with the rebels have been prominently displayed in NIF newspapers.

NIF's enhanced position in government has come amid signs that the United States might be prepared to take an active role in the search for a peaceful settlement to the war.

Washington has also said it was considering sending humanitarian cross-border aid direct to starving civilians trapped in SPLA-held areas.

NIF and Umma leaders are angered when foreign countries make contact with the SPLA.

LETTERS

Private schools

To the Editor:

Many thanks for the excellent article by Dr. Waleed Sadi, the Editor-in-Chief, published in the Jordan Times of Jan. 31, 1989 concerning private schools. I felt that the article expressed the thoughts of many people concerned with private education in Jordan.

I.B. Hofayz
Director
New English School

A Persian in 19th century England

Although the two countries have been on cordial terms for many years, few Persians (Persians) visited England before the twentieth century. Early in the nineteenth century, however, a Persian envoy came to the court of King George III and he subsequently recorded his experiences.

By Maggie James

NDON — Although as early as the 17th century, Englishmen had visited Persia and described their impressions, there were very few reciprocal visits to England by Persians before the 20th century. A Persian Ambassador, Mirza al Hassan Khan, was sent to London for eight months during years 1809-10, on a diplomatic mission — to secure an Anglo-Persian Treaty — and in the process he kept a journal in the process that it would be useful to us ambassadors.

His intelligent and observant account of English society, written with great charm and insight, was discovered by the Persian writer Margaret Morris who lived in Tehran from 1872. She translated the journal, which belonged to Abul Hassan, into English. Cloaked in the name of the Persian Ambassador, the book, entitled *A Persian at the Court of King George III*, was published in 1900. The Journal of Mirza al Hassan Khan, has been published by Barrie & Jenkins Ltd. of London.

"Rarely has any foreign visitor to England made such a deep impression on London society so quickly as the Persian Envoy, Mirza al Hassan Shirazi," writes Sir Denis Wright, who was British ambassador to Iran from 1963-71, in his introduction to the book. "His name regularly appeared in the social columns of the daily papers. Parties were given in his honour by the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Royal Dukes and other leaders of London society."

Abul Hassan was a striking figure with a long, dark beard of which he was very conscious. When asked by the Prince of Wales, King George's son, if he had found a woman in England, he replied that although he wished it were otherwise, none desired him because of his beard! On arrival in England, Abul Hassan and his entourage had to remain on board ship to observe four days of quarantine. To his surprise, newspapers were sent on board. "It seems that about 100,000 newspapers are printed and sold every day in England. How extraordinary that today's

newspapers will have no value tomorrow — except as toilet paper!" he exclaimed. "Every day a new paper is required. Through the newspapers, the people are able to learn of events soon after they occur."

Writing verses to fit his sentiments, Abul Hassan penned a couplet after he was kept waiting for his mission to be completed, which would allow him to return to Persia:

Do not procrastinate and so prolong my persecution — Release me from my misery and fix my execution.

and after being amused by the Prince of Wales:

I'm out of control, for the Prince is so droll, Come quick, catch my head — from my neck it may roll.

and to a beautiful lady who was ill in bed:

No fever thy delicate frame should endure I would sacrifice Hope, for the hope of thy cure.

When asked to write truthfully a list of things seen in the country — good and bad — Abul Hassan remarked, "I thought I would include among the wonders I have seen — 100-year-old men trying to seduce young girls and

100-year-old ladies flirting with young men at parties so crowded that you cannot move and so hot that you could roast a chicken!" A social event which impressed the envoy a great deal was a reception at the Queen's house, where he reported: "Four or five of the Queen's ladies-in-waiting came in. They were extraordinary dresses: from waist to toe they seemed to be standing in full-blown tents (the effect was awe-inspiring!), while from waist to shoulders the dresses were closely fitted. I was astounded!"

BOOK REVIEW

When a riot took place in London during Abul Hassan's visit he was surprised by the restraint shown by British justice. "I was utterly amazed! If such a situation had lasted for several days in one of Iran's cities, 2000 or more people would have been executed by now. I was even more perplexed by the length of time the Council (government) was taking to order the criminal's arrest. I am recording these facts to demonstrate the freedom and benevolence enjoyed by the citizens of London. Because the Government is concerned that no innocent person should be molested, no one is arrested until his crime has been proven."



Mirza Abul Hassan Khan in an illustration by Sir William Beechey from the book, *A Persian at the Court of King George III*.

Training war victims in job skills

"I HAVE made my own artificial leg," Peter Povonu said with pride, showing the well-made device attached above his right knee which helps him to walk with only a slight limp.

Peter has learned how to make orthopaedic and prosthetic appliances, one of the many Namibian war victims helped by an ILO rehabilitation project based in Lusaka. Every day he adjusts leg braces for young polio victims at a children's home in Zambia.

War-disabled Namibians living in refugee camps in Angola — many of whom were not directly involved in fighting — have been given priority in the project. It began in 1982 as the first in a series of projects triggered by the 1981 ILO resolution on apartheid. There are two major aims: to prepare disabled Namibians in exile for a return to full and productive economic activities in their communities, and to build up a nucleus of people with skills needed in their country after independence.

The programme is mainly funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development (NORAD) with contributions from Sweden and the Netherlands.

"Here I'm learning, here I'm happy," said Emilia, who is one of the current trainees. In 1977, at the age of 15, she crossed the border to Angola as a refugee from Namibia. A year later South Africa launched a bomb attack on the Kassinga refugee camp where Emilia had settled and she lost her right arm.

She explained that she was "doing nothing" until she was selected by the project for three years' training as a postal worker in Zambia. Emilia left her husband and two children behind in Angola.

Through the ILO project, more than 100 people have now completed training in 14 different courses scattered throughout Zambia. They range from typing and office management to agriculture, metal work, carpentry, tailoring, telegraph and postal services.

be an asset once their home country becomes independent. The vast majority of blacks in Namibia's modern sector today work in unskilled and semi-skilled jobs in mining, manufacturing, farming or domestic service.

The students display enthusiasm, discipline, self-concern and motivation, and are pleasantly free from rancour and self-pity," said Raymond Haynes, the project coordinator.

Mr. Haynes explained that one of the major obstacles — for the individual trainees as well as the project — is the inferior standard and discriminatory characteristics of the Namibian educational system.

Preparatory courses in mathematics and other basics have been necessary for the trainees to reach a level acceptable to the Zambian institutions. The biggest challenge has been

the trainees' lack of proficiency in English, the language of instruction in Zambia. All the participants in the ILO project go through a six-month intensive course in English before their skills training.

"I did not know any English before I came here. It has been difficult — and still is," Emilia said.

She has nearly finished her training but as a refugee she knows her job prospects are bleak. The main concern of the project for the time being is to provide trainees with the opportunity to utilise their acquired skills through attachments to firms and institutions in Zambia, or by setting up production units and co-operatives.

"When I am able to return home, I would like to work as a postmaster," Emilia said. "But I must wait." ILO Publication



Emilia is training to become a postal worker

A quiet revolution in China

By John Rowley

KING — Quietly, with hardly a word reaching the outside world, a major change has come to China's famous one-child

limitation programme. On the one hand the policy has been modified to make more realistically acceptable in countryside. On the other, a volunteer army has been enlisted by the non-government Planning Association of China, which aims to represent all people and to help them raise family planning as a health and social welfare task as well as to help solve population goals.

The change on the policy front is spelled out in an exclusive interview with the jolly, user-clad Minister in charge of State Family Planning Commission, Mrs. Peng Peiyun, who is over the job earlier this year reports that China was now likely to achieve its target of limiting its population to 1.2 billion by the end of the century previously planned. The child of the baby boom of the 1960s are now having babies of their own, creating a new birth which is likely to persist into the 1990s.

The major shift in policy, according to Mrs. Peng, is that she would like each couple

to have only one child, most families living in rural areas — where 80 per cent of the Chinese people live — will now be allowed to have a second child if the first one is a girl.

"This is because if they have only one daughter they will have a lot of difficulties both in food production and in their daily lives," Mrs. Peng explained.

One child policy

Of course, there have been many exceptions to the one-child policy since it was first enunciated 10 years ago, and some authorities have been practising the girl-first/second-birth rule for some time. But now it is to be made universal except for the three major cities of Peking, Shanghai and Tianjin and the two most populous provinces of Sichuan and Jiangsu.

In heavily populated Sichuan, Mrs. Peng said, the more flexible policy will be applied selectively in the more rural and remote areas, but will not apply in and around the city of Chengdu, for example. Nor will it apply in Jiangsu, an intensely populated province with 70 million people.

"Minorities will continue to be treated in a more relaxed way with local autonomous authorities formulating their own regulations based on their own spec-

ific conditions."

There is concern, it seems, that many peasants have not been willing to forgo boy babies, especially now that economic reforms have added to the opportunities to make money from the land. The average family size has come down in the rural areas to 2.6 per couple, compared with a national average in the 1970s of 5.8 — but this remains a far cry from the urban average of only 1.3 per couple.

It is partly for this reason that the government has put its weight behind the work of the China Family Planning Association — a voluntary movement set up in 1980 with the help of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, an organisation with member associations in some 125 countries.

In the last year the fledgling China FPA has seen its membership grow from one million to over five million — and the target for 1990 is 40 million. If achieved this will mean that nearly one in six of all China's couples of reproductive age will be involved in this volunteer network.

And since it is planned that each volunteer will work with five or six other families, the potential outreach could blanket the country.

The volunteers are drawn from older people respected in the

community — retired teachers, officials and health workers — housewives whose children have grown up, and some younger men and women. They receive training in production, contraception, the family planning policy, antenatal and infant care.

Volunteers

The involvement of the FPA volunteers is certainly resulting in better coverage, both of motivational visits and contraceptive distribution, because they have supplemented or have taken over much of the work of the few full-time family planning workers and part-time paid community distributors. Officials in some places we visited said that the number of abortions had fallen substantially as a result.

A journey through China, looking at the way local FPAs are being set up at provincial, county, city, township and village level, provides convincing evidence that the movement is taking off at great speed.

There are, for example, 1,167 associations at county level, out of 2,300 counties, over 12,000 associations at township level and over 115,000 village FPAs, from among nearly one million villages. Especially good progress has been made in the provinces of

Shandong, Hebei, Shanxi and in the northeast of the country. And in the southern province of Hunan, for example, the number of FPAs at county level has jumped from 20 to 90 in the past year, each of them covering a population of some 350,000.

Asked why this was happening, Minister Peng gave two reasons. "The first is the support of government, because the government wished the FPA to grow rapidly to complement its work. Second, because we do have a great number of volunteers who are enthusiastic about family planning work. They understand the needs and situation of the country."

From first-hand observation it seems that the Minister is right. And the consequences for China's population achievements could be far reaching, both in promoting family planning and guarding against any local bureaucratic excesses.

Says FPA Vice-President Zhou Boping: "we want to help the government to control the population quantity and to improve the people's quality. But we also want to safeguard the needs of the people in family planning and to supervise the government organisations in carrying out their programme." People News.

International celebration for Brandt's 75th birthday

NN (DaD) — The list of guests invited by President Richard von Weizsacker for the 75th birthday of former Chancellor Willy Brandt read like pages in the international "Who's Who" in politics. Ten heads of

state, any number of ministers and friends from all over the world were present in Bonn to celebrate Brandt's birthday, which actually occurred on 18 December last year.

President von Weizsacker said that Nobel-Prizewinner Brandt

was "a German of historic rank. His firm wish for peace, devoid of illusions, his courage and his humanity have made him one of the leading figures in the post-war world."

Among the guests was Polish Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski. President von Weizsacker emphasised Brandt's services to relaxation of tension between East and West and for reconciliation with the Polish people.

Rakowski said that Brandt was

"a moral factor in politics." He hoped that Brandt's ideas for reconciliation would reach "an optimistic high point" this year. Brandt was visibly moved by the expressions of friendship made during the celebration. Brandt, who is a very articulate speaker, said: "In this circle of friends I am reminding my journey through life." He spoke to the more than 40 people who came to congratulate him on his birthday in German, English, French, Spanish and Norwegian.

Among the important guests who attended the party were President Francois Mitterrand from France, Portugal's President Mario Soares, President-elect Carlos Andres Perez from Venezuela, the Swedish head of government Ingvar Carlsson and the head of the Norwegian government Gro Harlem Brundtland, Austria's Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, the President of the European Commission, Jacques Delors.

DaD



Willy Brandt and his wife, Brigitte, President Francois Mitterrand and Marianne von Weizsacker, the President's wife.

(Photo: DaD/Sven Simon)

<p>Cinema</p> <p>CONCORD Tel: 677420</p> <p>EMPIRE OF THE SUN</p> <p>Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 9:00</p>	<p>Cinema</p> <p>NUJUM Tel: 675571</p> <p>RED HEAT</p> <p>Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema</p> <p>PLAZA Tel: 677420</p> <p>LIKE FATHER LIKE SON</p> <p>Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30</p>
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Iran reverses stand on foreign borrowing

NEW YORK (AP) — Iran has reversed its policy of refusing to borrow from foreign banks as another step toward rebuilding an economy devastated after eight years of war with Iraq, an official said.

In an interview published in the New York Times Friday, Gholamreza Agazadeh, Iran minister of oil and mineral wealth, said Iran would borrow for revenue-producing projects and that such borrowing would not exceed \$3 billion over the next five years.

"In my country a big debate has gone on," he said. "Now we have decided the no. 1 priority in this country is reconstruction of the economy."

Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini had banned such loans when he took power 10 years ago and established an Islamic government.

Recent changes in government policy, including a decision to reopen a natural gas pipeline to the Soviet Union announced in December, reflected a decision to pursue a more pragmatic approach to solving the country's woes, Agazadeh said.

Rafsanjani emphasises economic independence

In Tehran, Iran's parliament speaker Friday said his country, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Islamic revolution, must seek economic independence and self-sufficiency in the next decade, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

The official agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Hashemi Rafsanjani as saying in a sermon at

the Friday prayer session at Tehran University that the next 10-year period was "the decade of construction and economic independence."

"The road to the salvation of the country, the fundamental strengthening of the revolution and achievement of real independence is to have more production for economic independence," he declared.

"We must adopt the slogan of increased production and increased construction for the removal of the roots of dependence," he noted.

Since the Aug. 20 ceasefire in the eight-year-old war with Iraq, Iranian leaders have been focusing on the need to rebuild Iran's war battered economy and develop it technologically.

"There are still factories that need imported raw materials and machinery in order to resume operations, and Iran is still partly dependent on imports to feed the people," Rafsanjani said.

"But conditions and resources are sufficient to make it totally possible to attain economic independence," he stressed.

Many key industries such as oil, gas and petrochemicals, which were badly damaged in the war, have resumed partial operations in recent months.

But, amid falling oil revenues, Western economic estimates indicate that Iranian factories are working at around one-third of

capacity, unemployment is pegged at an estimated 35 per cent and the country has to import one-third of its food.

The government has proposed a major five-year development plan. But, amid continuing shortages and power cuts, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini warned last month that Iranian face years of economic problems.

Iran, bolstering relations with the West and Soviet bloc after a decade of self-imposed isolation, has signed numerous economic and technical agreements to bolster its massive post-war reconstruction drive.

Rafsanjani, architect of Iran's new open-door foreign policy, favours seeking foreign aid to help fund the reconstruction programme. But he faces stiff opposition from radicals led by Prime Minister Hussein Musavi, who favours tightened state control of the economy.

That debate is still raging in Tehran, with no clear policy yet decided.

Rafsanjani acknowledged that because of "the moves of our enemies," Iran has fallen behind the rest of the world in technological development over the last decade.

He said that "after the revolution a serious move towards development began," but noted that the war and "economic sanctions" imposed by foreign countries drained Iran's economy.

Had there been no war, he stressed, "obviously more steps would have been taken" to develop the economy, IRNA quoted him as saying.

Japan records \$79.5 billion current account surplus in '88

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's current account surplus shrank in 1988 for the first time in seven years, falling 8.7 per cent to \$79.48 billion from \$87.015 billion in 1987, the Finance Ministry announced Friday.

In the month of December, the nation's current account surplus shrank to \$9.274 billion from \$9.435 billion a year earlier, although it grew from \$6.762 billion in November 1988, the ministry said.

The current account is the broadest measure of a nation's international financial flows, and includes trade, investment, tourism and other transactions.

Japan's trade surplus also declined 1.7 per cent during the year to \$94.789 billion from \$96.386 billion the previous year. It was the first annual drop in the trade surplus in six years, ministry officials said.

December's trade surplus, however, continued a recent upward trend, rising to \$10.932 billion from \$9.958 billion a year earlier and \$7.559 billion in November 1988.

The decline in the current account surplus was due primarily to the growing number of Japanese travelling overseas and increasing payments of patent royalties, ministry officials said.

A record 8.40 million Japanese travellers spent a record \$15.76 billion abroad in 1988, compared to the previous year's \$8.66 billion, ministry officials said.

The year-to-year drop in the current account surplus during December came as a relief to the government, which had expressed concern when the gap grew for two months in a row in October and November.

The recent increases in the surplus had raised the prospect that the government's attempt to restore balance to its external accounts may have begun faltering after months of steady declines resulting in part from the appreciation of the Japanese yen.

But the drop in the current account surplus does not necessarily give reason for optimism, according to Finance Ministry officials.

"We can't say whether the downturn is going to continue," one ministry official said. "It depends on a lot of things, like oil prices."

A rise in oil prices would increase Japan's import bills and result in a reduction in the current account surplus.

Exports and imports last year, as measured when contracts were settled, were at record highs, with exports reaching \$259.555 billion, surpassing the previous record of \$224.605 billion in 1987. Imports came to \$164.766 billion, far more than the prior record of \$129.555 billion in 1981.

Japan includes freight and insurance costs in its import figures, but not in its exports.

The 1988 statistics showed that vigorous domestic demand in Japan has pushed up imports, Finance Ministry officials said.

Oil prices drifted down most of the year, but strong domestic demand for manufactured goods led to an increase in imports and helped reduce external surpluses, they said.

Jobless rate falls

Meanwhile, Japan's monthly jobless rate fell in December,

while the unemployment rate for the 1988 calendar year also inched down from the previous year, the prime minister's office reported Friday.

The seasonally adjusted jobless rate in December, which fell to 2.3 per cent from 2.4 per cent in November, hit its lowest level since August 1982, according to the statistics bureau of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's office.

The number of seasonally-adjusted actual unemployment was 1.44 million, down 40,000 from November, according to a bureau statement.

The figure included 390,000 involuntarily unemployed persons and 490,000 voluntarily unemployed, while the involuntary jobless rate sharply fell by 130,000 from the same period in 1987.

The comparable monthly jobless rate was 5.3 per cent in the United States, 7.6 per cent in Canada, 7.2 per cent in Britain and 10.1 per cent in France.

But Japan's jobless rate would be higher if calculated by U.S. or European methods since self-defence force personnel and people working more than one hour during the last week of the month — when data are tabulated — are counted as employed by Japan.

In the United States, military personnel are not considered part of the labour force, and those working less than 15 hours a week are considered unemployed.

The number of employed Japanese in December totalled 60 million, increasing by one million from a year earlier. The number of employed has increased by more than 800,000 in the last 14 months, since November 1987.

Aden to start oil production next year

ABU DHABI (R) — South Yemen, one of the Arab World's poorest countries, will begin producing oil in 1990 and hopes to become an exporter the following year, a United Arab Emirates oil magazine has reported.

The country's energy minister, Saleh Abu Baker Ibn Hussainoun, was quoted as saying South Yemen would produce 30,000

barrels per day (b/d) by 1990 and 120,000 b/d by 1991.

"We will first cover local consumption and export the rest on the basis of market capacity and the best prices," Petroleum and Industry news reported him as saying.

Last month, newspapers in South Yemen said Aden and North Yemen had approved the establishment of a joint company to develop a mineral-rich region along their common border.

Oil was discovered in North Yemen's Marib region in 1984 and in South Yemen's Shabwa

region across the border in 1986.

The newspapers said the company had received 32 bids from international oil and mineral companies for contracts to explore a 2,200 square-kilometre tract in the Shabwa and Marib regions.

Ibn Hussainoun told the oil magazine that some concessions had already been granted and others offered to unspecified Arab countries.

He gave no indication of the size of oil deposits already discovered but said a joint Kuwaiti company was among those exploring for oil in South Yemen.

G-7 stresses currency coordination

WASHINGTON (R) — The West's financial leaders paped over cracks in economic policy coordination during two days of low-key talks but Europe and Japan left President George Bush with a clear message to cut the U.S. budget deficit.

The Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations, anxious not to stall strong world growth, agreed to steer a steady course for the dollar while working to fight the scenes on new ways to fight the \$1.3 trillion Third World debt crisis.

The United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Canada and Italy ended their talks Friday with an upbeat assessment of the world economy and said their policies to clamp down on inflation were paying off.

"This is not a perfect world," British Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson said after about 12 hours of talks that began with a working dinner Thursday

evening. "But on the whole we are reasonably satisfied."

Finance ministers and central bank chiefs, invited to Washington by Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, failed to resolve all their underlying policy differences but also pointedly refrained from airing them in public.

By breaking with tradition and not issuing a final communiqué, the G-7 also took a calculated gamble that their briefings to journalists Friday would convince financial markets of their commitment to keep the dollar steady.

The picture that emerged showed the world's seven richest economies closing ranks on a wide range of issues although differences of emphasis look set to surface in coming months.

Brady stressed his commitment to slashing the U.S. budget deficit to \$100 billion in the next fiscal year from a projected \$161.5 billion this year. Europe and Japan came away reassured that it was

the Bush administration's priority.

But both France and West Germany made it clear they considered the United States had put too much emphasis on monetary policy in the past and that budget cuts would be the best way to allow U.S. and world interest rates to fall.

Finance ministers in their briefings stressed the importance of continued coordination on currencies and said their attempts to keep rates steady since their "Louvre accord" at a Paris meeting in February 1987 had been largely successful.

But West Germany said that a dollar advance to 1.90 marks, just two pennings above Friday's New York close, would raise questions about the G-7 strategy of redressing global trade imbalances via exchange rate policies.

Japanese officials were more blunt. They said they could live with current rates but would not tolerate a higher dollar.

A Bush administration official said later the United States and its allies would continue to intervene to stop the dollar from rising above target ranges agreed by the seven.

But it is evident that 1.88 marks is too high for Bonn's liking and 130 yen, tested in recent days, too high for Tokyo.

Evolving a new debt strategy also appears to be a hard task for the G-7, despite consensus that the current policy, pioneered in 1985 by then treasury secretary James Baker, must be refined and expanded.

Latin American leaders added their voice to the argument Friday, endorsing an accord by their finance ministers to push for a reduction in the region's \$420 billion debt burden.

G-7 officials will be studying new options behind the scenes, but it remains unclear whether

major industrial nations will accept schemes that sanction transferring risks from the private sector to the taxpayer.

One scheme being floated, whereby the World Bank would guarantee loan payments to commercial banks, smacks of just that and raises serious questions of whether the bank or the International Monetary Fund (IMF) should play the lead role in tackling the debt crisis.

The seven industrial nations next meet at the end of March for the IMF's semi-annual meeting in Washington.

By then discussion of a new debt strategy is likely to be more concrete and Europe and Japan will be able to judge just how much success Bush has had negotiating budget cuts with Congress — and whether their patience in Washington last week was justified.

U.S. job growth raises chances for tighter credit

WASHINGTON (R) — The robust U.S. economy showed no signs of slowing down as it chugged into 1989, with new jobs and factory orders up sharply, raising the chances that the central bank will tighten credit, economists said.

The Labour Department Friday said American businesses added a surprising 408,000 non-farm jobs to their payrolls in January, up sharply from the 221,000 created in December and last year's average of 305,000 new jobs per month.

Although seasonal aberrations such as unusually mild weather inflated the January increase, economists said it still reflects an ever-tightening job market in a bustling economy in danger of triggering a pick-up in inflation.

"The major policy implication is that the economy is close to full employment and is growing in excess of what economists see as the inflation-stable growth rate," said Stephen Roach of Morgan Stanley.

The brisk pace of job creation, which economists consider to be a predictor of future economic trends, shows efforts by the Federal Reserve Board (Fed) to slow economic growth by nudging interest rates higher were not strong enough, they said.

Another round of credit tightening by the central bank is almost guaranteed within the next few weeks, they added.

"The economy is at the upper end of what the Fed can reasonably tolerate and as long as the economy is approaching the full employment zone the potential for inflation will tilt the Fed toward greater restraint," said Norman Robertson, chief economist at Mellon Bank.

"The question is when to tighten, how much and how — not

whether," added economist Allen Sinai of the Boston Co.

Despite the sharp rise in the number of jobs created, the civilian unemployment rate edged up to 5.4 per cent in January from 5.3 per cent in December.

The rise in the jobless rate, which is considered statistically insignificant, resulted from an increase in the labour force — those working and those looking for work — which was greater than the jump in new jobs last month.

The manufacturing sector, which has helped sustain the longest-ever U.S. economic expansion in peacetime, now in its seventh year, remained strong at year-end too, the Commerce Department said in a separate report.

New orders received by American factories, a key indicator of economic activity, rose a solid 4.1 per cent in December after edging up 0.5 per cent in November, the department said.

Transportation equipment, such as cars, aircraft and ships, as well as new capital equipment for businesses and the military, accounted for much of the latest increase, it said.

For all of 1988, factory orders, which have been buoyed by strong export demand and business investment, rose 9.7 per cent to \$2.66 trillion, the biggest increase since 1979, it said.

The total unemployment rate

China expected to top list of wheat importers

LONDON (R) — China will supplant the Soviet Union as the largest importer of wheat in the trading year to the end of June, the International Wheat Council (IWC) said Thursday.

A below-target harvest and rising population had pushed up China's import needs.

The Soviet Union will, however, remain the biggest importer of grain overall, the IWC, a trade organisation, added.

It said that, after a poor harvest, total Soviet imports of both wheat and coarse grains, which include maize (corn) and barley, would be up about 13 per cent at 35 million tonnes.

It also slightly raised its estimate of the total world grain crop, meaning that stocks held against emergencies may not be as tight as has been feared after last year's U.S. drought and the lower Soviet and Chinese harvests.

The IWC said China's wheat imports in 1988/89 would surpass previous record purchases of 15.3 million tonnes in 1987/88. (The Soviet Union is seen importing 14 million tonnes of wheat.)

Chinese purchases of coarse grains would bring its total grain imports to 16.6 million tonnes

this year. The IWC said China needed more imports after a shortfall in its 1988 harvest, officially estimated at only 393.8 million tonnes, including rice, against a target of 410 million.

China is the largest producer of grains, the IWC said. It is always the top rice producer and in most years the largest wheat producer. By the year 2000 it wants to produce 500 million tonnes a year to keep up with population growth.

But the IWC said the area sown with grain is expected to decline slightly as land is lost to industry. Yields will have to rise, mainly through more intensive farming practices.

"China's authorities already face serious problems in feeding the country's present population of 1.07 billion," the IWC said. It said the Chinese were likely to eat more livestock products in future, adding to demand for grain, particularly to feed poultry, and posing serious choices.

"For grains, the major decision could involve some relaxation of the relentless drive for self-sufficiency. Some government circles have expressed the opinion that large populations near coastal towns could continue to be served most efficiently and economically through regular imports," it said.

The constraint may be China's ability to pay for imports. Meanwhile, the new IWC estimate of Soviet imports of wheat and coarse grains this year, at 35 million tonnes, is up two million on a forecast made last December and is four million higher than actual imports in 1987/88.

Some grain trade analysts say the Soviet Union could import as much as 40 million tonnes this year.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, Feb. 4, 1989 Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	565.0	570.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	437.6	439.2
Pound Sterling	986.4	991.3	Dutch guilder	267.1	268.4
Deutsche mark	301.3	302.8	Swedish crown	89.0	89.5
Swiss franc	353.0	354.8	Italian lira (for 100)	41.3	41.4
French franc	88.7	89.1	Belgian franc (for 10)	143.9	144.6

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Jan. 28, '89 and ending Wednesday Feb. 1, '89. (Figures in Jordanian Dinars)

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Per value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	252	420	1.630	1.700	1.000
Petra Bank	15500	41198	2.550	2.730	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	12914	25071	1.900	2.850	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	24298	37420	1.420	1.580	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	8171	10370	1.230	1.300	1.000
Housing Bank	6550	12868	1.910	2.000	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	130	3945	30.000	31.500	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	3494	56963	16.000	17.060	1.000
Arab Bank	4440	661968	144.500	156.450	10.000
Jordan National Bank	31267	86664	2.660	2.820	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	14458	34346	2.550	2.700	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	335291	232213	0.680	0.710	1.000
National Financial Investments	3540	7627	2.090	2.210	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	224266	233637	0.980	1.000	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2.000
Al Mashrek Exchange	30	430	14.000	14.500	10.000
Middle East Exchange	139150	94264	1.130	1.210	1.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
REFCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Insurance	54349	215759	4.280	4.040	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	575	642	1.040	1.120	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	1000	1140	1.100	1.130	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Arabia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Middle East Insurance	85000	137500	1.470	1.620	10.000
National Ahiya Insurance	6023	8580	1.380	1.480	1.000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Universal Insurance	58550	38683	0.700	0.680	1.000
Services and industries					
General Investments	—	—	—	—	1.000
Imna for Investment and Financial Facilities	22781	19882	0.840	0.900	1.000
Darco for Housing and Investment	207355	183691	0.840	0.910	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	139393	93389	0.670	0.680	1.000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	1144555	501205	0.420	0.450	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	38422	30355	0.750	0.830	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	191651	40564	0.700	0.710	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Tajero	25767	8159	0.800	0.820	1.000
International Contracting & Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	52548	95760	1.750	1.860	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	1466	1319	0.900	0.900	1.000
Arab International Hotels	66550	58268	0.720	0.920	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Middle East and Commodore Hotels	—	—	—	—	1.000

Kuwait leads Jordan in Davis Cup

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — After a tough and heated three-hour match, Kuwait Saturday managed to take a hard-fought 2-1 lead over Jordan in the men's tennis preliminaries of Davis Cup.

Saturday's doubles match followed a tie between the two teams in the singles matches Friday. The two remaining singles games, to be played Sunday, will determine which team will meet Pakistan for the second round of Davis Cup Group II Asia/Oceanic zone matches in April.

While the Jordanian team got off to a solid start Saturday, winning the first set 6-2, the Kuwaitis put up a tough fight winning three consecutive tie-breakers 8-6, 7-5, and 7-3.

During the first set, the Kuwait team, represented by captain Khaled Ashkenani, 23, and Aiman Al Ashouk, 19, managed to snatch only the first and seventh games from the Jordanian players, Hani Al Ali, 23, and Abdullah Al Khalil.

Aided by a few sloppy errors by the host team, the guests pulled their act together right from the beginning in the second set. Half way through the set, Ali and Khalil managed well-placed smashes as momentum picked up during the first tie-breaker.

Tension rose in the third set when Kuwait's strong-served Ashkenani made a double fault,

allowing the Jordanians to momentarily catch up in the game. But with Ashouk serving the last set, the Kuwaitis managed a 7-5 tie-break winner.

The audience's enthusiasm climaxed with a series of beautifully-played rallies in the fourth set. The self-controlled Ali came into the last set geared up for carefully calculated shots, making up for what a tennis fan referred to as Khalil's "abrupt" and "hasty" hits.

The fourth was marked by neck-to-neck volleys as both sides complained about points being unfairly called to their disadvantage. During that set, both Ali and Khalil lost their service games, and went into a tie-breaker following whole-hearted attempts to snatch a last-minute victory.

At that point, however, neither Ali's solid services nor Khalil's volleys could save the day. With Ashouk excelling in high smashes and Ashkenani in strong and solid long shots, the Kuwaitis scored their hard-fought victory, in preparation for Sunday's final games.

Despite the extremely cold temperature in the indoor court, its too-smooth surface, and distractions caused by members of the audience who smoked and moved around while play was in progress, the four players gave an excellent performance.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Tyson reduces weight

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Mike Tyson has reduced his weight from 113 kilograms to the neighbourhood of 99 kilograms. That's bad news for Frank Bruno, the muscular Briton who will challenge Tyson for the undisputed heavyweight championship Feb. 25 at the Las Vegas Hilton. Of course, a flabby Tyson could handle the muscular but mechanical Bruno. After all, the badly out-of-shape Tim Witherspoon knocked out Bruno in the 11th round of a World Boxing Association title defence July 19, 1986. Bruno, ranked no. 1 by both the WBA and World Boxing Council although he's done little to earn the rating, hasn't fought in almost 18 months because his connections didn't want to risk losing a big payday against Tyson. A payday is all Bruno will get. Tyson, who wants to weigh 98.8 kilograms for the fight, looked lean and mean although he held back much of the time during eight rounds of sparring before the media mob at Johnny Tocco's ringside gym. There were flashes of Tyson's quickness and hand speed and there was that constant sense of menace he brings to fights, which is a major weapon for him. A sign proclaimed, "Welcome home Mike," and Tyson, his body glistening with sweat — he keeps the heat up when he trains — acted like a man who truly felt at home. The 22-year-old Tyson hasn't fought since his 91-second bashing of Michael Spinks last June 27 — by far the longest layoff of his career. "It's great to be champion," he said. "It's good to be called champion and be patted on the back, but I said, 'hey, it's time to get back to work.'" During the layoff, his weight was not the only thing that increased. So did Tyson's understanding of himself. "I've learned about myself, my character," said Tyson, whose highly publicized out-of-ring problems have made him a real-life soap opera character. "I understand Mike Tyson now — my moods and my feelings." Tyson contends he is his own man, although his alignment with promoter Don King makes some people wonder.

Bahrain beats Syria

MANAMA (AP) — Bahrain beat Syria 6-3, 6-0, 6-3 Saturday in the men's doubles to take a 2-1 lead on the second day of the first Davis Cup tournament held in the Gulf state. Bahrain now needs to win one men's singles match Sunday to meet Thailand in the second elimination round in April. The three countries are in the 12-nation Asia-Oceanic zone group 2 play. "All we need is to win one match tomorrow instead of two," said Bahrain coach Larry Gagnon after the match at the Isa town courts. Syria's no. 1 seed, Mounjed Bou Hassan Ben Saber, who had been sidelined Friday with a shoulder injury, completed the doubles match without difficulty.

W. Germany goes to second round

KARLSRUHE (R) — West Germans Boris Becker and Eric Jelen put the defending champions into the second round of the Davis Cup Saturday when they beat Indonesians Suharyadi and Wailan Walalangi 6-2, 6-4, 6-1. The doubles victory gave West Germany a winning 3-0 lead in the five-match first round tie in the world group. Despite the comfortable victory, which followed equally easy singles wins by Becker and Carl-Uwe Steeb Friday, Becker paid tribute to Suharyadi and Walalangi, ranked 525th and 947th in the world respectively. "The Indonesians showed in the second set that they could play some good tennis," Becker said. "Walalangi's strength is that he is a good fighter."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARAF

CAREFUL TECHNIQUE PAYS OFF

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 5 2
♥ 6 3 2
♦ A 7 5 3
♣ K 6 4

EAST
♠ A Q J 8 7
♥ 10 9 5 4
♦ K Q 10 4 2
♣ Q 10

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 10 6
♥ K
♦ 9 8
♣ A 7 5 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT 2 ♠
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

Terrible things can happen on Friday the 13th. That's why you have to pay extra care as declarer to avoid catastrophe.

South was a whisker short of a jump to four spades. North, with two prime cards and three trumps, had no hesitation about accepting his partner's invitation — remember, the aces and kings are undervalued in the point count.

East rose with the ace on partner's heart lead and continued with the queen, ruffed by declarer. Faced with a certain loss in each minor suit, declarer's problem was to avoid losing a second club trick.

That would be easy enough if clubs were to break 3-3 or trumps 2-2. But what if clubs were 4-2 and trumps 3-1?

If declarer does not draw trumps and plays three rounds of clubs, the defenders might be able to lead a fourth club and overruff dummy. If declarer were to draw two rounds of trumps and then try three rounds of clubs, a defender might be able to lead another trump to eliminate dummy's ruffing ability.

The secret of success is surprisingly simple. Declarer should draw only one round of trumps and then duck a club. Suppose a defender wins and returns a trump — as good a defense as any. Declarer must leave the last trump outstanding and cash the king and ace of clubs.

If clubs are 3-3, declarer draws the last trump and claims his contract — the 13th club is high. If clubs are 4-2, declarer must hope that the player with the long trumps also has four clubs, so that he can ruff his club loser on the table.

Forest maintains challenge

LONDON (R) — Nigel Clough seized the chance to impress England soccer manager Bobby Robson with a goal in each half as Nottingham Forest won 3-2 away to Luton Saturday and maintained their First Division title hopes.

Robson was on hand to watch the four Forest members of his England squad, Stuart Pearce, Steve Hodge, Neil Webb and Des Walker, but it was Clough who caught the eye.

A first half penalty and then a superbly executed free kick from 25 metres out 16 minutes from the end added to Gary Parker's opening goal and gave Forest full points.

But the victory took them no closer to leaders Arsenal and second-placed Norwich, who both won 2-1, Arsenal at home to lowly London neighbours West Ham and Norwich away to struggling Charlton.

Arsenal head the First Division by three points with 47 points from 22 games, one less than the challenging teams. Coventry maintained third place on goal difference despite managing only a 1-1 draw away to Middlesbrough but were joined on 37 points by Forest, who moved up one place into fourth.

The threatened challenge by champions Liverpool failed to materialise as they were held to a 2-2 draw by last-placed E Newcastle.

Newcastle, who pulled off a shock 2-1 win at Anfield in October, threatened a repeat performance on their own territory as they twice took the lead through their foreign imports Mirandinha and Frank Pingel.

Once again, however, it was the double act of Ian Rush and John Aldridge who spared Liverpool's blushes.

It took the Brazilian only three minutes to open the scoring when goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar and Steve Nichol both hesitated as he nipped in to score from the tightest of angles.

Rush banged home the equaliser from close range after 15 minutes but Newcastle, playing far better than their position in the table indicated, were unlucky not to have led at the break when a superb 35-metre drive from Mirandinha hit the post.

The second half was only four minutes old when Danish striker Pingel Rose above the Liverpool defence to head home his first goal for Newcastle and put them back in the lead.

But their joy was short-lived and within 60 seconds Aldridge headed Liverpool back onto level terms.

The draw left Liverpool 11 points adrift of Arsenal and plenty of work to do if they are not to surrender their championship crown.

Newcastle manager Jim Smith drew comfort from the result.

"We turned in a very encouraging performance, but a couple of silly little mistakes cost us victory. If we can learn from today and go on from there then we have a great chance of avoiding relegation," he said.

The point lifted them one place off the bottom, ahead of West Ham.

Alan Smith, included in England's squad for their friendly match against Greece next week, boosted his chances of making the team by grabbing Arsenal's second goal in their win over West Ham.

His 17th of the season in the 61st minute followed the opening goal by Perry Groves four minutes earlier and ensured maximum points for Arsenal, although Julian Dicks hit a consolation effort for West Ham six minutes from the end.

Norwich, surprise league leaders for much of the earlier part of the season, still refuse to give up the chase.

Inequities remain in S. African sports despite racial reform

By David Crary
The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — Formal racial barriers have been removed from the top level of most South African sports, but deep-rooted inequities persist that undercut white officials' pleas to rejoin the international sports community.

Virtually every nationwide sports organisation espouses integration, in principle.

In practice, racial divisions are widespread, and black athletes remain handicapped by inadequate facilities in their segregated townships, weak sports programmes at their segregated schools, and a scarcity of good coaching.

Black professional golfers, for example, are welcomed at whites-only country clubs for tournaments but often are barred from these courses if they want to practice on their own.

Major track-and-field meets are multiracial. But because only white high schools have comprehensive programmes in this sport, there are virtually no blacks in the field events and virtually no black women at all.

The status of sports integration is a crucial one in the ongoing debate over South Africa's international sporting ties.

South Africa's top cricket officials, visiting London last week in a vain attempt to halt further isolation, publicised their ongoing programme to teach black youngsters the game. Rugby officials, similar-

ly eager to rejoin international competition, have vowed to intensify their pursuit of multiracial domestic leagues.

In many ways, the international sports boycott has been more successful than economic sanctions, causing deep distress among sports-obsessed whites. Supporters of the boycott acknowledge the moves away from segregated competition, but most activists feel it should continue until the entire apartheid system is dismantled.

Said Frank van der Horst, President of Anti-Apartheid South African Council on Sport: "the practice of multiracial sport must not deceive people and make them think that any significant advances have been made towards making sports facilities available to all on an equal basis."

A review shows that integration has been achieved more easily in some sports than others, and that segregation at school-age level remains pervasive.

— SOCCER: The most popular sport among the black majority, soccer is genuinely multiracial at the professional level. The national soccer league has a few predominantly white teams with some black players, a few all-black teams and many predominantly black teams with a few white players. But more than 95 per cent of the fans are black. Soccer also is increasingly integrated at lower levels — black and white boys who go to segregated schools play alongside one another after classes on

many club teams.

— BOXING: Along with soccer, professional boxing is probably the most thoroughly integrated sport. The national champions in the various weight classes include an almost even number of blacks and whites, and the ranks of trainers and referees also are integrated. Brian Mitchell, a white junior lightweight who is the country's only world champion, has a loyal following among blacks, while the top black boxers enjoy broad support from whites. In amateur boxing, complaints of discrimination persist.

— CRICKET: The six provincial teams in the country's top league include several blacks from the West Indies, but no South African blacks. The South African cricket union says it is teaching the game to thousands of youngsters in black townships and predicts black players will break into big-time cricket within a few years. But the largest-selling black newspaper, City Press, accused the cricket union of insincerity and said its political awakening had come "decades too late."

— RUGBY: The South African rugby board espouses non-racial policies and has assembled integrated teams when the rare chance arises to play overseas competition. The board's president, Danie Craven, incurred the wrath of the government by discussing sports issues with an official of the African National Congress guerrilla movement. But there are no blacks playing regularly

in the top provincial rugby league, and virtually no black fans at its games. Most black and mixed-race players are affiliated with a separate governing body.

— TRACK-AND-FIELD: Major meets are integrated, but blacks are far outnumbered by whites and compete in only a limited range of events. There are virtually no black men in the field events or hurdles, and virtually no black women competitors of any type, a reflection on the scarcity of coaching in black high schools. In road racing, however, blacks now sweep the top places in most major events between 5,000 metres and the marathon.

— GOLF: A few black professionals compete with scores of whites on the annual sunshine circuit, but they rarely are among the leaders and complain bitterly about discrimination. The few golf courses in black townships are in poor condition, and the black pros complain that they are barred from practicing at or joining white clubs, even those which allow them to play during tournaments.

— OTHER SPORTS: Many sports, ranging from swimming to tennis to lawn bowling, remain virtually all-white, either because blacks lack interest or proper facilities. Basketball, the most popular sport for American blacks, is rarely played in South Africa. There are baseball and softball leagues, officially multiracial but in practice divided along racial lines.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation —

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Friendships could be affected. If negative feelings generated today are acted upon. Use the gift of persuasion to convince others that hostile acts serve no useful purpose.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Enjoy a lazy day and sleep in even though some of the day's tasks may have to be set aside. Get away from it all with quiet time and relaxation.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): Avoid major decisions that can lead to misunderstandings. All of this will seem trivial tomorrow, so keep a cool perspective today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): Set your financial house in order. Go over books and records, pay bills and get the mail directly to the post office when you are late.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 22): When thoughts turn inward it is a perfect time for a mental housecleaning. Evaluate your current position and resolve.

LEO (Jul. 23 to Aug. 23): Sudden mood swings and interruptions are all part of this day. Someone may press you for a decision that would be better postponed.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 to Sept. 23): Household demands may be more than you have time or energy for.

Siblings have important academic considerations.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23): You may be spending extra cash before you have any. A stronger budget with practical controls is needed as a guideline.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Change is inevitable, and unrealistic behavior serves only to hasten and disrupt orderly change. Open up and share your thoughts and ideas.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You may want to tell it like it is, but before you do so clean up your approach and use a soft sell.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Get rid of those things you have no use for and utilize that which you wish to keep. Have some fun with your "junkies!"

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): Illness, problems and poor timing make for irritations throughout the day. It is best to leave important matters for another day.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): The early morning is excellent for getting in touch with your psychic self. Romance could brighten the later day.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

HARRIS 1-30



"Okay, we agree to never use nuclear weapons when we fight. How about conventional forces?"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LOBOD
AXTEC
TRIMAN
GARUJA

He never listens to me!

A BOXER WHO FAILS TO CARRY OUT HIS SECOND'S SUGGESTIONS IS SOMETIMES THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: MURKY WHILE JACKAL RAINBOW

Answer: A four-letter word that some people find most "objectionable" — "WORK"

THE Daily Crossword

by Samuel K. Flagler


ACROSS:
1 Dishevel
5 India's father
10 War god
14 Malevolent
15 Cold
16 Cribble
17 Verbosen
18 It coin
19 Legal action
20 Lodge
22 Garden flower
23 Macaw
24 Repair
27 Fable
28 Playwright
30 Wapiti
31 Paper red
32 Enticement
33 Influence
34 Viper
37 Fair reality
41 Before
42 Arachnid
43 Ohio city
44 Padlock sound
46 A Tale of Two —
47 Pleasing unusual
50 Scrapper's catch
52 Dutch costume
53 Hungry
54 Reconnaitre
56 Antisolar
57 " — with a View
58 Enthusiasm
62 Jade
63 Freight
64 Track event
65 Pub potatoes
66 Penitence
67 Fliver

DOWN:
1 Had a session
2 Grape
3 Alka
4 Insult
5 Seditious
6 Remove in law
7 Watch things

8 Galloped
9 Spaceship
10 maybe
11 Sphere
12 Dinmore
13 Shambored
21 Fix facts
22 Sesame
23 Quickly
24 Severity
25 "What's in —"
27 Fight result
28 Cravat
31 Pace
32 Guilt
34 Golf's Palmer
35 Placed in a pigeon
36 Step
38 Neglect
39 Have being
40 Of the age
41 Lat.
44 Relatives
45 Remnant

46 Upstart
47 Limited
48 Up to the time
49 Expert
49 Burning
51 Funeral oration
54 Algerian port
55 Browning's "Rabbi"
56 " —"
57 Expert
58 de Cologne
60 Decree
61 Zodiac sign

Peanuts




A FINE WATCHDOG YOU ARE!

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BARK WHEN SOMEONE COMES AROUND OUR HOUSE!

IT'S HARD TO BARK WITH A SUPPER DISH IN YOUR MOUTH..

Mutt'n' Jeff




HONEY, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR EGGS THIS MORNING?

HM--FRY ONE AND SCRAMBLE THE OTHER

THERE YOU ARE, LOVE, ONE FRIED AND ONE SCRAMBLED!

YOU SCRAMBLED THE WRONG EGG!

Andy Capp



LET'S HEAR IT--

I WOULDN'T SULLY YOUR EARS, PET

AS BAD AS THAT?

WORSE, I'VE NEVER BEEN SO ASHAMED OF MYSELF

SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO GET IT OUT OF YOUR CHEST?

POSITIVE, I'VE GOT MY STANDARDS

THAT'S HOW THE MORE ASHAMED HE IS, THE MORE RESPECTABLE HE THINKS HE IS

Date set for Sino-Soviet summit

PEKING (AP) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will travel to China in mid-May for a meeting with China's Deng Xiaoping that will formally bring to a close three decades of enmity between the two communist nations, officials announced Saturday.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze also said at a news conference Saturday that the two sides have agreed to work toward reducing their offensive forces and easing military tensions along their 8,000-kilometre border.

He said his three days of talks in Peking including a Saturday morning meeting with Deng, had produced broad agreements on the need for Sino-Soviet efforts to end the 10-year war in Kampuchea.

Shevardnadze left after the

news conference for a flight to Islamabad, Pakistan, where he is to confer with Pakistani leaders about the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan and the prospects for peace in that war-torn nation.

"It is our common task now to make sure to contribute to ending the bloodshed, to contribute to ending the hostilities and to contribute to the development of dialogue between the Afghans," he said.

Shevardnadze said he and Deng had agreed that the first summit since Nikita Khrushchev met Mao Tse-tung in Peking in 1959 will take place in mid-May. Soviet sources said the tentative date was May 15.

China and the Soviet Union split in 1960 as a result of bitter feuds over the leadership of the communist world and strategy

toward relations with Western nations.

They fought a brief border war in 1969 and in recent years have been divided over the wars in Kampuchea and Afghanistan, and the troop face-off along their border.

China last year agreed to begin talking about a Soviet-proposed summit after Gorbachev announced plans to withdraw Soviet troops from Afghanistan and reduce Soviet troop strength in Asia. There also was progress toward solving their dispute over the Kampuchean war.

On Friday, China formally invited Gorbachev to visit, and Shevardnadze accepted on the Soviet leader's behalf.

The Soviet Union, a financial backer of Vietnam, now agrees with China, supporter of the anti-Vietnamese rebels in Kam-

puchea, on the need for Vietnam to end its military occupation of that southeast Asian country.

Shevardnadze said China and the Soviet Union agree on most of the international issues involved in bringing peace to Kampuchea, such as ending all shipments of arms to the warring rebel factions after a political settlement is reached.

He said the internal problems of national reconciliation are now the most important in Kampuchea.

"The Soviet side and the Chinese side are ready to contribute to the development of that process," Shevardnadze said.

Shevardnadze said he had proposed that Soviet and Chinese diplomatic and military experts begin drafting an agreement on reducing military forces along their common border.

Paraguay counts dead; Stroessner faces exile

ASUNCION (R) — Ousted President Alfredo Stroessner, Latin America's longest-ruling dictator, faced exile Saturday as Paraguayans tried to work out the death toll in a bloody military coup that ended his 34-year rule.

Police and military had no official figures but local radio stations said between 100 and 250 people, many of them civilians, were killed in street battles between Stroessner loyalists and army rebels Thursday night and early Friday.

Radio reports in Buenos Aires said up to 300 had died.

The whereabouts of Stroessner, overthrown by his former number two in the army command, General Andres Rodriguez, were unclear but state radio in Asuncion said Friday night that he would leave for exile in Chile "in the next several hours."

Chilean Defence Minister Patricio Carvajal said earlier he believed Chile would grant Stroessner political asylum if he wanted it.

Other reports speculated that Stroessner might take up residence in Brazil or South Africa.

Army officials said earlier that Stroessner, 76, widely accused of human rights violations and harbouring Nazi war criminals during his rule, had been detained in a barracks.

Rodriguez, whose daughter Marta is married to Stroessner's youngest son Alfredo, took office as provisional president and vowed to bring democracy and

respect for human rights to the impoverished, landlocked South American nation.

He had not previously shown public dissent.

Thousands of jubilant civilians took to the streets Friday to cheer Rodriguez and welcome the coup, which some called "the revolution for democracy."

Radio announcers who for over three decades had spoken respectfully of Stroessner referred to him as "the dictator."

But popular euphoria faded Saturday to uncertainty about the number of dead and the fate of high officials of Stroessner's government, which had been widely accused of human rights abuses and corruption.

In Santiago, the head of Chile's militarised police force said Stroessner himself would likely leave Paraguay Saturday morning but did not say if he was bound for Chile.

It is very likely they will take him out of the country tomorrow (Saturday) morning, but we don't know where to General Mario Maronez, head of the Carabineros, told reporters Friday.

Paraguay and Chile are the two last strongholds of military rule in a continent that has moved to democracy in the past decade. As

president, Stroessner had cordial ties with Augusto Pinochet's government in Chile.

The fate of other members of the Stroessner administration remained unclear.

Some members of Rodriguez's civilian cabinet sworn in Friday held high posts under Stroessner. New Finance Minister Enzo Bernabardi headed the state electricity company.

But Radio Caritas, broadcasting in the capital said: "We lack information on the whereabouts of authorities of the Stroessner regime. We do not know whether they are under arrest or not."

Rodriguez, who Friday gave a speech promising to bring democracy to Paraguay, has not yet set a timetable for elections.

An almost complete lack of official information on the number of people who died in the coup meanwhile resulted in widely varying estimates of the death toll in local news media.

Radio Caritas reported rumours that about 200 people had died but a local newspaper, Ultima Hora, said the death toll was around 100. In Buenos Aires, radio reports from Asuncion said the death toll was as high as 300.

Ultima Hora reported that several civilians had been wounded after taxis and buses fled Asuncion city centre stranding civilians on the main battleground after fighting broke out Thursday night.

COLUMN

J.R. may wheel, deal in Moscow

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev meets the ultimate capitalist, J.R. Ewing? If Larry Hagman has his way, the meeting will become a reality in March when "Dallas" is tentatively scheduled to go on location in the Soviet Union and Europe. Hagman, as well as regulars Patrick Duffy, Cathy Podewell, Sherie J. Wilson and George Kennedy, are awaiting a final decision on the trip. If approved, they will film scenes for "Dallas" in the Soviet Union, Austria and West Germany. "I have no idea what the story will be," said Hagman, who this season became co-executive producer of the series with Leonard Kitzman. "I don't think we'll know until Leonard finishes scouting the locations." But, Russia exports more oil than any other country, including Saudi Arabia and Iran. It's their only source of hard dollars. So I think J.R. may do a little dealing. And might J.R. seek an audience with Gorbachev? "Don't think we aren't trying. If we could just touch flesh just once, I'm all for it." "It'll be fun," said Hagman. "It'll generate some interest." Hagman became co-executive producer in September, a title offered by Lorimar Television, but he acknowledges it's mainly an excuse. "They had to find some way to pay me more money," he said. "It was a means of paying me the executive producer's salary, if you want to know the truth."

Businessman sells cans of carnival air

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — A Brazilian businessman has caught a whiff of the profits in the air of carnival. Inaldo Medeiros is canning air from the busiest crossroad at Olinda festivities in northeast Brazil and selling it for a dollar a tin. O Globo newspaper said Friday. "In a country where we sell everything, why not the air of carnival?" Medeiros told the newspaper. Some 20,000 cans of the air, which its packers say revives carnival memories, have been made. But all carry a health warning: "This should not be used during carnival in Olinda when the patients are already under the influence of the same air," Medeiros said.



Quayle hails human rights in El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR (R) — U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle, on a visit to war-torn El Salvador, said Friday the country had made "remarkable progress" in respecting human rights but that further improvements were needed.

Quayle ran into a storm of criticism from the political left and right, with the left calling his visit imperialistic and the right suspicious that he might support a peace plan put forward by the left-wing rebels.

"This is not the same El Salvador that President Bush visited five years ago," Quayle said in a luncheon hosted by President Jose Napoleon Duarte.

He said El Salvador was far closer to the "triumph of the rule of law and respect for individual civil liberties" than it was when Bush came here to lecture Salvadoran leaders on the need to achieve social justice and protect human rights.

"The anti-democratic forces of the extreme left and the extreme right are ideologically exhausted and weakened by the remarkable progress you have made, but they're still out there and they have in the past thrived on violations of human rights," Quayle said.

The vice-president, whose visit came as El Salvador prepares for a March 19 presidential election, said democracy, economic growth and human rights went hand in hand.

Before leaving El Salvador, Quayle was scheduled to meet the country's military high command.

"I will convey a very strong message that we condemn violence on the left and on the right. We expect them (the military) to work towards eliminating human rights abuses. I'm not just here to use platitudes," Quayle said.

A U.S. official told reporters travelling with Quayle that the vice-president would discuss specific cases of human rights abuses in his meeting with military officials.

Pollution experts set to battle Antarctic oil spill

SANTIAGO (R) — Oil seeping from an Argentine ship sunk off the Antarctic is spreading over several miles, experts said Friday, but they disagreed whether sludge was washing ashore near the nesting places of thousands of rare sea birds.

International pollution fighters from Argentina, Chile and the United States were headed to the area hoping to prevent an environmental disaster.

Fears of a disaster in the unspoiled frozen continent were raised after the Bahia Paraiso, a supply and tourist boat, capsized Tuesday in the Bismark Straits on the northern tip of the Antarctic. It was carrying 250,000 gallons of diesel oil in barrels.

Pedro Romero, director of the Chilean Antarctic Institute, told Reuters Friday that an institute plane flying over the wreck had calculated the slick measured some 5 kilometres long by 10

kilometres wide.

Romero said that for the moment the slick extended back from the stricken boat. He said the slick was away from the shore where thousands of nesting penguins and other birds would be at risk from oil.

But researchers for the U.S. National Science Foundation working at the Antarctic base Palmer Station, three kilometres from the wreck site, say oil from the ship has already washed ashore near sea bird rookeries.

"There are thousands of penguin chicks about to take to the water for the first time and it could be their last," Anton Inderbitzen, director of the National Science Foundation's Polar Program, told journalists here Thursday.

"The Antarctic environment is very fragile. We are extremely concerned (that is why) we have sent down our best equipment

and personnel," Inderbitzen added.

The U.S. group has sent 52 tonnes of special oil spill containment equipment.

Fourteen Chilean pollution fighters were due to set off Friday from the southern Chilean port of Punta Arenas for the four-day journey by sea to the wreck site.

The Chilean navy was also sending a boat to the area, while a Chilean Antarctic institute vessel was expected in the area.

The Chilean navy has dismissed fears that the boat has already begun to leak large quantities of oil, saying the seepage so far has come from waste fuel in the ship's engines, not its cargo of diesel oil.

Local newspapers Friday quoted the newspaper of a Spanish ocean research boat, Las Palmas, which had been in the area until early Thursday, as saying there was no sign of oil escaping from the sunken ship's tanks.

U.S.-Japan talks positive, but jet dispute simmers

WASHINGTON (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita has left Washington after talks that stressed warm bilateral feelings but failed to quash a growing controversy over a proposed sale of U.S. jet fighter technology to Tokyo.

"I have increased confidence that the meeting with President Bush has established the firm base for further friendship," Takeshita told reporters Friday after talks on trade and other issues with Bush and Secretary of State James Baker.

Bush, speaking to business executives at a White House luncheon, said his meeting Thursday with Takeshita "went well" and the prime minister desired a cooperative relationship.

But he said there would be differences over trade policy in the years ahead. The huge trade imbalance favouring Japan now stands at \$54 billion, according to U.S. figures.

"Both of us are realistic men, the Japanese prime minister and me, and we realise we are going to have some confrontation at times, or certainly some differences of opinion," he said.

One growing controversy is over the proposed sale to Japan of F-16 warplane technology for the new FSX jet fighter, a deal valued at \$8.2 billion.

Twelve U.S. senators urged Bush in a letter released Friday to reconsider the sale, arguing it would undermine U.S. competi-

tiveness in the aerospace industry by giving the Japanese access to trade secrets.

Aerospace was "the only high technology area in which the United States remains the undisputed world leader," the letter said.

Washington and Tokyo exchanged diplomatic notes last November to set the deal in motion, but the new Bush team was reviewing the matter to determine how we are going to proceed on it," a senior U.S. diplomat told reporters.

In meetings Friday on Capitol Hill, Senators asked Takeshita what he planned to do about the trade imbalance. Japanese officials told reporters.

Archbishop slams world's biggest Catholic country for erotic carnival

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazil, the world's biggest Roman Catholic country, is ready to let loose for the most sensuous and glamorous show on Earth — carnival — but Rio's archbishop had harsh words for revellers Friday.

Rio's carnival begins Saturday when the mayor hands over the city keys to Rei Momo, the clown king who presides over the festivities.

But in a radio broadcast Archbishop Eugenio de Araujo Sales condemned the excesses and "illegitimate festivities" of carnival.

"It seems like the national code of ethics is crumbling dangerously... the evil is profound and devastating for it persists — albeit in a

smaller scale — through the next few months," Sales said.

Hundreds of thousands of Brazilians will jump and gyrate to the beat of samba music non-stop for the next five days.

At Rio's famous carnival balls scantily clad women wiggle their hips to the hungry eyes of tipsy men whose fingers are sometimes tempted to walk on their sun-tanned rears.

It is a scene to appal puritans and feminists alike.

"It's really anguishing to see those women stooping down to such a low level. Those men pant at like dogs," said Maria Caieta, a teacher.

Evolving from the 1930s when Brazil's high society drove in

open cars through the city centre in the build-up to shrove Tuesday, the country's carnival processions have become more and more erotic.

"Carnival has lost its original idea. It ought to be called carnivorous-vul. There's no spirituality. It's all sex and flesh," said Celia Leal, sales manager for a foreign company.

About 90 per cent of Brazil's 140 million inhabitants are Roman Catholics.

Often the songs of Rio's samba schools pay homage to saints in an exotic mix of Roman Catholic and Afro-Brazilian motifs which Brazilians boast cannot be compared to any other cultural manifestation worldwide.

Toxic talks go to waste

LUXEMBOURG (AP) — Officials from 50 nations failed Friday in a final round of talks to settle disputes blocking agreement on the world's first treaty regulating the transport and disposal of toxic wastes.

But Mostafa K. Tolba, the executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme, which convened the meeting, remained hopeful the treaty could be signed in Basel, Switzerland, March 22.

"There will be a treaty signing conference in Basel," he told reporters after the weeklong meeting.

"In spite of several serious unresolved problems, we have made sufficient progress here this week for me to be confident that we will go to Basel."

He said two more meetings would be held in Basel prior to

the signing of the treaty in a bid to end the disagreements.

He said these disagreements pitted the developed against developing nations, but there were also differences within each of these groups of nations.

Tolba said disagreements in the field of toxic waste shipments dealt, among others, with "the rights of transit countries, particularly if these conflict with the international principle of 'innocent passage' of ships."

That principle lets ships cross the territorial waters of another state without being checked, even if they carry dangerous cargoes, as long as they remain in transit.

Parallel to this point is the contentious issue of the extent of territorial waters.

Also left unsettled were the problems of the responsibility of a state from which wastes are

exported illegally and its duty to reimpose these wastes if it's found that they were exported illegally.

The meeting also left unsettled the definition of what constitutes illegal traffic.

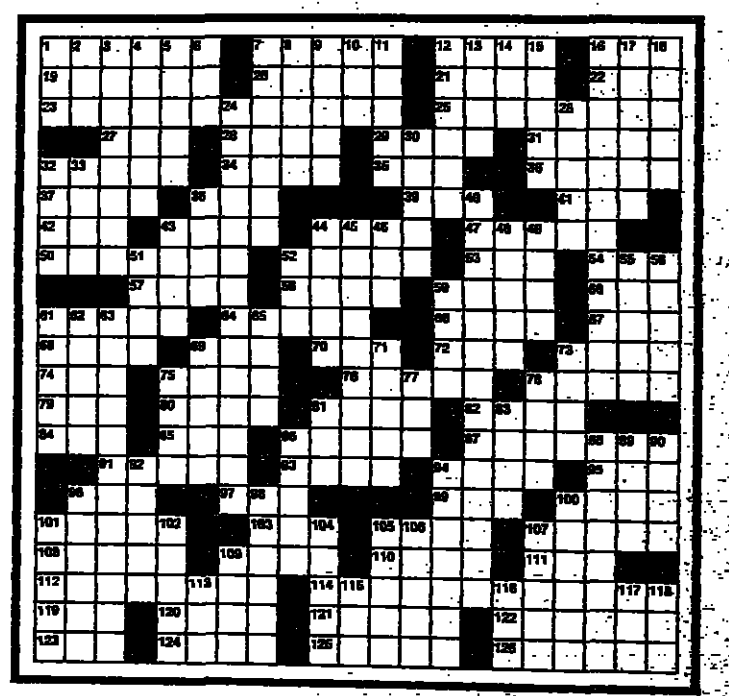
Alain Clerc, a Swiss environment official and the meeting's chairman, said:

"The essential points of the draft treaty have been adopted, above all the possibility for a country to ban imports of toxic wastes and the obligation for the exporter to respect its destination."

But Greenpeace, the international environmental organisation that attended the meeting, said the draft contained loopholes allowing countries the possibility of signing bilateral accords on the shipment and disposal of wastes. These accords could be with other treaty nations or nations that are not signatories.

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Ertson



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Unearthing wisdom will disclose a degree of uncommon folly in any age of man.
2. My name is Eddy, and I spin around and around. Would this mean that I'm a whirlpool?
3. A shepherd depends on his dog to help gather, control and protect his sheep.
4. Crawl kangaroo court makes fools out of sining new lawmakers.

CRYPTOGRAMS

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2. DROBY JB OLDPHYSISC THGE O RIET RSGSL XHUP HUC BARLAY PS DJART YIES UPS XJLRL
3. HXCM AXC TCITO BCFWEYZ EFWER ECRWICZ BJJ AWW AVFVW AFO BARXVME ZWLCXVME CJZC
4. JFFH BBYALCE VOJVEW EATBE YOCY YLCEABTK OCFE ZABOT WBEK

By Ed Brudman

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WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Bomb scare forces plane to land

LONDON (R) — A British Airways jumbo jet flying from London to Toronto made an unscheduled landing in Glasgow, Scotland Friday after a bomb scare over the Atlantic, an airline spokesman said. "A Canadian passenger suddenly stood up and told a member of the crew that her baggage had been interfered with," he said. "It is a mystery why she waited until the plane was out over the Atlantic before saying anything." The spokesman said the Boeing 747's pilot decided to turn back and land in Glasgow to enable police to examine the luggage, which was in the cargo hold. Passengers and crew disembarked and the plane was taken to an isolated area of the airport. A police spokesman said: "Nothing sinister has been found after a two-hour search of the aircraft."

La Reunion declared disaster area

SAINT-DENIS, La Reunion (R) — The Indian ocean island of La Reunion was declared a disaster area Friday as officials put cyclone damage last weekend at one million francs (\$156 million). French Overseas Territories Minister Louis Le Penec told a news conference on the French territory that the island would get immediate emergency aid. He said a preliminary credit of six million francs had already been set aside to rebuild homes knocked down by high winds when cyclone Firinga swept over the island. It left 6,000 people homeless.

Disappearances doubled to 400

GENEVA (AP) — Nearly 400 people were reported missing last year in new cases of enforced or involuntary disappearances, mostly in Latin America, a U.N.-mandate report said Friday. The report said the number of cases reported for 1988 nearly doubled

compared to the level for 1987 and that the number of countries where disappearances were reported also rose. The alleged disappearances, reported by human rights groups, were usually linked to a country's authorities. The report, compiled by a five-member working group for the current annual session of the U.N. Human Rights Commission, cited evidence of disappearances in 15 of the 44 countries examined. The working group asked the governments concerned for comment on the latest cases, but most of them remain unresolved, the report said. Peru's 170 cases topped the list of alleged disappearances reported last year. Also figuring prominently were Colombia with 70 incidents, Guatemala, 53, El Salvador, 46, and the Philippines, 39. Argentina was listed with the biggest number of outstanding cases, 3,387, although the report noted no disappearances have been reported there since 1983.

Lego wants to make learning fun

BILLUND, Denmark (R) — Lego, the Danish-based producer of plastic building bricks and toys, is sponsoring a special chair at an American university so a professor can help it develop new ways to make learning fun. Dr. Seymour Papert, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), has been named "Lego professor of learning research." Lego is spending 14 million crowns (\$2 million) for a chair at MIT for Papert, who will advise the company about combining play with education, said Information Director Peter Ambeck-Madsen. "Dr. Papert has a lot of knowledge about what happens in children's brains when they learn by playing. He hope he'll give us new information, lots of ideas," said Ambeck-Madsen. The professor has already worked closely with the family-owned firm over the past five years, adapting his computer logo-language for use with Lego toys, he added.

Diagramless 19 x 19, By Frances Barton

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|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Spelling bee | 12 Affirm to be | 25 Apparently | 32 Exact replica |
| 2 San Francisco | 13 Run-in | 26 Hunger strike | 33 Tidal bore |
| 3 Transporter | 14 Bye-bye | 27 Jackson or Smith | 34 Canyon or plane |
| 4 Ruffed | 15 Lead idea | 28 Supernatural | 35 Abstract being |
| 5 Hated Ala. city | 16 Ideal | 29 Chagall | 36 Complian |
| 6 Meth. town | 17 Ideal | 30 Cuddly B. De | 37 Adolescent |
| 7 Lane | 18 Sp. explorer | 31 Jew | 38 Admiration |
| 8 Ahead of, of | 19 City on the Oka | 32 War god | 39 Omen hazard |
| 9 Before, prof. | 20 Sp. explorer | 33 On waterworks | 40 Lame |
| 10 Twinkle gods | 21 City on the Oka | 34 On waterworks | 41 Pre-Easter time |
| 11 Sp. explorer | 22 Sp. explorer | 35 On waterworks | |
| 12 City on the Oka | 23 Sp. explorer | 36 On waterworks | |
| 13 Run-in | 24 Sp. explorer | 37 On waterworks | |
| 14 Bye-bye | 25 Sp. explorer | 38 On waterworks | |
| 15 Lead idea | 26 Sp. explorer | 39 On waterworks | |
| 16 Ideal | 27 Sp. explorer | 40 On waterworks | |
| 17 Ideal | 28 Sp. explorer | 41 On waterworks | |
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